# Watering Trees
# FACT SHEET

GREEN DROP Tree Care

## How:

Manually, the best way to water trees is by laying a soaker or irrigation hose. Sprinklers and regular garden hoses are less efficient, but can be used. Use organic mulch (wood chips etc.) to conserve moisture and apply water over the top of the mulch. Do not concentrate water at the base of the trunk, as stem tissues that are constantly wet can cause trunk rot.

## Where:

On the ground in a circle within the root zone. Most of a tree's roots spread 2 - 3 times as wide as the tree's canopy.

Some trees, such as Spruce, will have absorbing roots well beyond the drip-line.

## When:

The best time to water is late afternoon or evening when evaporation will be less, although, for trees, any time is acceptable.

If using a sprinkler watering at night is not recommended.

## How Much:

Water well or not at all! Shallow watering will cause deeper roots to dry out and cause more growth of shallow surface roots. These surface roots are vulnerable to freezing conditions. Less frequent deep watering is much better than frequent light watering. Water slowly, generally 1-3 inches of water per week in summer, and every two weeks in spring/fall to keep your trees healthy. Five gallons (approximately 20 litres) per square yard is about 1 inch of water.

## Tips:

- Apply 2 - 3 inches of mulch (wood chips, bark) under the plant canopy. Mulch retains soil moisture and discourages weeds. This looks very attractive in the landscape as well!

- In spring and in late fall water twice as long as you normally do.

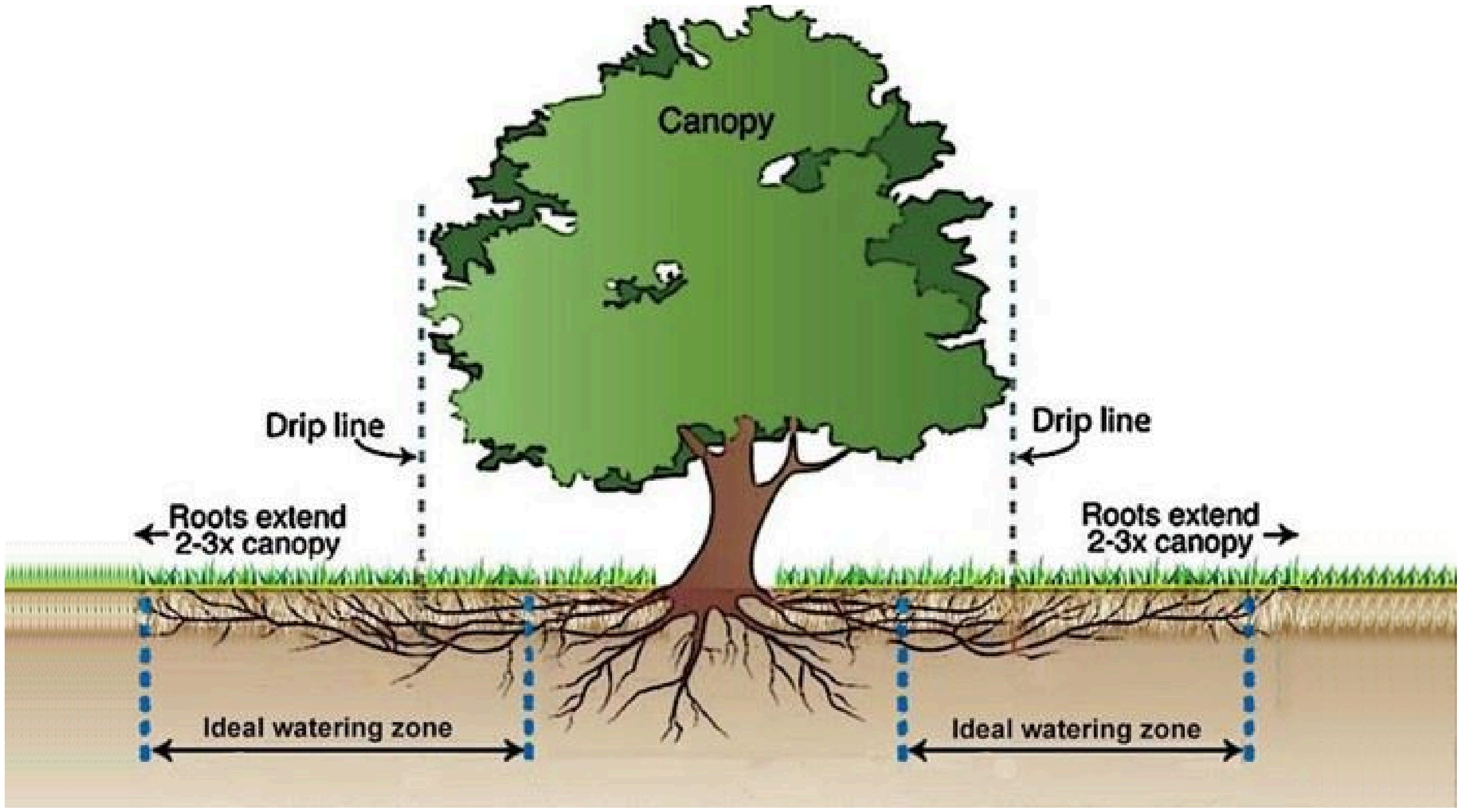
- Newly planted trees have small root systems and can take up water from only a limited area. For the first 6 months water at least once a week – even more in hot weather.

- Because evergreens lose moisture from their needles, which are retained year-round, they tend to be more susceptible to dry conditions. It is especially important to water evergreens well before winter and as soon as possible in spring when the ground has thawed.

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## Contact:


GREEN DROP Tree Care

Canada's Tree Expert

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