

Winter Watering and Mulching:

Winter watering and mulching are very important for tree survival during the winter months. During the winter, trees lose their leaves and become dormant. With Cheyenne's climate being so windy and cold, soil can become very dry to where it draws moisture out of tree roots. This causes serious damage to trees. It is extremely important to maintain good soil around the tree roots to ensure the health and well-being of trees during the winter months.

To help maintain good soil and overall health to trees, it is a good idea to water trees once a month in the winter whenever the temperature hits above 40 degrees. It is important to make sure there is no ice or snow on the ground near your trees. Early morning is the best time of day to water your trees. This allows time for the water to absorb before temperatures drop during the evening.

Placing a layer of mulch around your trees can also help hold in soil moisture. Adding 2-4 inches of organic mulch (bark, wood chips) over the root system will help preserve moisture and help keep the soil temperature warmer during the fall and winter months.

Newly planted trees along with evergreens are most susceptible to winter drought, so watering and mulching are critical activity to ensure the health of your trees.

- How to water your trees during winter months?
 - Apply 10 gallons of water for each 1-inch of trunk diameter. For example, a 3-inch trunk diameter should get about 30 gallons of water.
 - To check for soil moisture, dig in the soil to a depth of 4 to 6 inches at the drip line of the tree and squeeze a clump of soil in your hand from that depth. If the soil holds together in a ball or it leaves moisture on your hand, then the soil is wet enough, and no watering is needed.
- Tips for caring for newly planted trees and evergreens.
 - Water trees once per month in the winter whenever the temperature hits above 40 degrees.
 - Newly planted trees must be watered by hand or by using a drip system for the first two years.
 - Good soak to the entire root system either by hand, hose or by irrigation system for evergreens.
 - Need to keep the soil moist (not drowning in water).
 - General rule of thumb is 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk/stem diameter.
 - Adding 2-4 inches of mulch around base of tree can help preserve soil moisture and help keep the soil temperature warmer.

To learn more about winter watering for your tree, please visit <https://rootedincheyenne.com/winter-watering/> or call us at (307) 637-6428.

[Winter Tree Watering Tips - Arbor Day Blog](#)

[Fall and Winter Watering - 7.211 - Extension \(colostate.edu\)](#)

[Winter Watering - Rooted In Cheyenne](#)

[winterize-trees-shrubs-fall-bb-2009.pdf \(uwyo.edu\)](#)