

TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING WEST LAFAYETTE GREENER



# Urban Leaves

*Tree News You Can Use*

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## PLANNING YOUR SUMMER TREE CARE

### Watering



With the season getting warmer and drier it is amazing how quickly the soil dries out. During the critical first 3 to 5 years of a tree's life, it is important for them to receive 10-15 gallons of water a week, especially during long dry spells. It is also important to allow water to slowly fill the root area, rather than quickly releasing the water. If the area has received 1 inch of rain during the week, then nature has done the watering for you! But, watch for wilting leaves on street trees or those in your yard and give them a drink.

The majority of tree roots are located near the trunk and grow in the top 12 to 18 inches of soil. Here are some watering techniques you can use to get water to the roots:

**Gator Bags.** Gator bags can be found at any home improvement store or online. They are designed to slowly release water, allowing the water to soak the root zone of young trees.

**Buckets.** Take a 5-gallon bucket and drill a 1/8" hole on the bottom. Then place the bucket near the trunk. Fill the bucket with water. The small hole at the bottom of the bucket will allow the water to slowly soak the ground underneath, similar to the gator bag.

**Soaker hose or garden hose.** Garden soaker hoses are designed to allow water to tickle out at a slow rate to allow the ground underneath to soak with water. If you are using a regular garden hose, make sure the water is flowing

at a slow trickle.

Please help!! The Tree Friends and the City thank you for watering young street trees in your neighborhood.

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## So Long Suckers

Suckers, and their near-relatives watersprouts, are troublesome, unsightly, and unhealthy for trees and shrubs. However, they regularly appear on many landscape plants and trees. Click [here](#) for a brief but highly informative article by Rosie Lerner in Issue 18 of the *Purdue Landscape Report* on what suckers and watersprouts are, how to identify them, and the most effective ways to get rid of them!



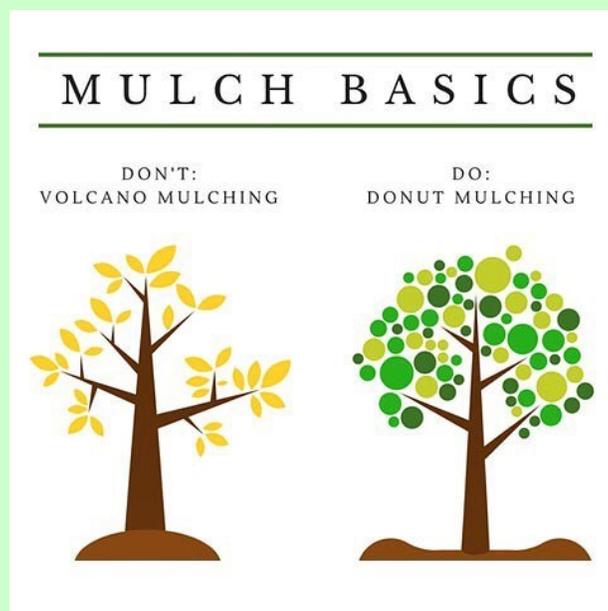
Unhealthy



Healthy

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## Mulching



We all know that mulching is an important part of tree care. Proper mulching is vitally important for the health of the tree. Improper mulching, as in the volcano illustration above, can seriously injure the tree. According to the July 13, 2017,

edition of *Tree Care Tips* from the Tree Care Industry Association,

"Mulch is a wonderful way to care for trees, new and existing. It conserves moisture in soil, promotes a natural rate of evaporation, regulates soil temperature year-round, provides protection from weeds and it looks nice. Did you know that over-mulching your trees will make them susceptible to damage, and even kill them?"

The full article can be found by clicking [here](#).

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## TREE FRIENDS ACTIVITIES

### The 2018 Spring Pruning is Complete



The West Lafayette Tree Friends and the City's Urban Forester finished our annual spring pruning session, which ran from mid-April through the end of May. This season, we tackled over 850 young street trees, pulled nearly 20 tree stakes, and collectively contributed 119 volunteer hours for our growing urban forest. Though it was hard work at times, we had a blast! Want to join in on the fun this fall, but have no experience pruning?



No problem! Contact us as at [chair@wltreefriends.org](mailto:chair@wltreefriends.org) or [city@wltreefriends.org](mailto:city@wltreefriends.org) for more information.

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### Meet a Tree Friend - Dennis Schlott

Dennis Schlott grew up on a farm in southern Illinois; his professional career was in agri-business, primarily with Monsanto. After retiring in 2015, he realized he wanted to continue to be active and to contribute to his community. In his neighborhood of Arbor Chase, he is vice-president of the Home Owners Association. On frequent neighborhood walks, he recognized that some of the street trees needed pruning. Larry Swanson, a neighbor, had a similar concern and asked Dennis to assist him in organizing neighborhood tree care. After contacting the West Lafayette Tree Friends, the pruning mission was organized. In August 2017, Larry and Dennis joined the Tree Friends for their first morning of pruning and they were hooked. They have enjoyed pruning regularly with the



Tree Friends in other West Lafayette neighborhoods as well as in Arbor Chase.

Dennis is a licensed realtor, enjoys walking and interacting with people, and says he finds volunteering with the Tree Friends is a good fit for him.

Welcome to the Tree Friends, Dennis! We appreciate you.

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## Planning for the Future

In 2016, the City of West Lafayette and the WL Tree Friends applied for and received a grant to update its street tree inventory and to explore maintenance goals for the City's urban forestry program. The contractor, Davey Resource Group, conducted the inventory update, produced general maintenance recommendations, and suggested planting strategies.

The inventory included a total of 9,425 trees and 129 stumps in the city's right-of-way, with a preponderance of younger trees. West Lafayette's urban forest has an estimated replacement value of \$6.4 million, comprised of quantifiable economic, environmental, and social benefits, and provides a return of \$1.20 for every \$1.00 spent. The replacement value will increase as the young trees mature.

Reviewing the above data, West Lafayette's Neighborhood Vitality and Greenspace Administrator (Bryce Patz) saw the need for a comprehensive Urban Forestry Master Plan that continues the City's ongoing commitment to urban forestry for a more sustainable future. In the coming months, the City and the WL Tree Friends will be reaching out to residents of West Lafayette to hear your thoughts on our urban forest. Stay tuned for more information on how you can get involved!

For information in depth about the value of urban forests globally, [click on this link](#).

For a longer article, "Looking Towards the Future," about the WL Urban Forest, [click here](#) to be directed to the WL Tree Friends web site.

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## Donations Make A Difference

A major function of the WL Tree Friends is raising funds to assist the City in planting, pruning, and protecting the urban forest, specifically the street trees. Funds are also received to sponsor Tribute Trees, trees planted in honor of or in memory of individuals. Our fund-raising year begins in November and runs through the following October. To see the list of donors since November 2017 as well as the list from November 2016 through October 2017, [click here](#). You may also make a donation from that site.

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Thank you to all of you who contribute so greatly to the beauty and environmental stability of our community!

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## Upcoming Events

The weekly WL Farmers Market continues on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 - 7:00 in Cumberland Park off North Salisbury Street through October.



July 18 - Visit the WL Tree Friends booth at the WL Farmers Market. (We will be there also on October 17.)

August 14 - WL Tree Friends monthly meeting at 12:00 noon in the WL Public Library. Everyone is welcome.

September 11 - WL Tree Friends monthly meeting at 12:00 noon in the WL Public Library. Everyone is welcome.

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## In conclusion, remember that....

West Lafayette's urban forest has an estimated replacement value of \$6.4 million, comprised of economic, environmental, and social benefits. Also - for every dollar spent in the WL urban forestry program, there is a financial return of \$1.20.



Find previous issues of *Urban Leaves* [here](#).

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