



Forest Health Information

Deep Watering

Ponderosa pines rely on monsoon rains and runoff from winter snow to deep water their roots. When there is a lack in snowpack and absent monsoons, the trees aren't getting enough water, and therefore become drought stressed. In addition, the lack in moisture that Arizona is currently experiencing, along with increased average temperatures, increases the trees overall environmental stress. Therefore, deep watering your trees can help decrease their drought stress and increase their overall health and vigor.

How often should you water?

If you have the availability, deep watering your trees once a month would be a huge help; twice a month would be better!

How much water?

2-4 gallons per hour for 6-8 hours. This is a very slow drip, preventing water runoff, and allowing the water to penetrate deep into the soil. This amount of water ensures your soil, below 12 inches in depth, is wet! This soil moisture will not evaporate out like it does in the topsoil. Also, this is where the majority of the trees feeder roots are, allowing for the more water absorption.

Where to water your tree?

Be sure you are watering at or outside the dripline of the tree. The dripline is the outer most edge of the tree branches. For large pine trees this could be as much as 10-20 feet away from the bole of the tree. Do not water mature trees at the base. This can lead to rot and other damage.

NOTE: Please know your local water usage rules and regulations! Local water usage regulations supersede our tree watering recommendations.

If you have questions, please reach out to DFFM at
foresthealth@dffm.az.gov or call 602.376.0056