

URBAN TREE THREAT

Water supply issues

ISSUES

- Irrigation system issues including malfunctions; wetting trees, need to update timing, volume and emitter locations to meet plant needs
- Ongoing regional drought stressing trees and increasing tree vulnerability to insects, diseases and wildfire
- Increasing pressure to conserve urban potable water use, potentially reducing potable water available to support trees

MANAGEMENT OF EXISTING TREES

- Periodically inspect and repair irrigation system elements
- Adjust sprinklers to ensure they do not wet tree trunks and leaves
- Adjust irrigation timers seasonally to match tree needs; adjust more often if needed during extreme heat and/or drought periods.
- As trees grow, increase the number of emitters and deliver water to tree's drip zone, or extend watering using soaker hose system
- Provide periodic deep watering based on species needs and weather
- Where potable water supplies are limited, increase collection and infiltration of rainwater, stormwater, graywater and condensate water
- Place organic mulch under tree canopies to reduce evaporation loss

STRATEGIES FOR NEW TREES

- Design tree-planting areas to provide reliable long-term water supplies to trees, making maximum use of non-potable supplies including:
 - Retaining and infiltrating (rather than deflecting) direct rainfall
 - Harvesting and infiltrating immediate site rainfall runoff
 - Harvesting and infiltrating stormwater from large roofs, parking lots, streets and other hardscapes (Green Stormwater Infrastructure – GSI)
 - Accessing and delivering graywater from inside buildings to outside planting areas, following prescribed requirements
 - Accessing and delivering condensate water from cold-producing machines (air conditioners, ice machines, etc.) to outside planting areas, following prescribed requirements
- Place a tree carefully relative to water harvesting areas to address the tree's tolerance for temporary inundation
- Design, operate and maintain irrigation systems per list above
- Place organic mulch under tree canopies to reduce evaporation loss

REFERENCE AND RESOURCE WEBSITES - MANAGEMENT OF EXISTING TREES

- https://www.amwua.org/resource_documents/drip_irrigation_guide.pdf
- https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1392-2016_0.pdf
- <https://www.ose.state.nm.us/WUC/PDF/IrrigationBasics2004.pdf>
- https://pubs.nmsu.edu/_h/H707/index.html

REFERENCE AND RESOURCE WEBSITES - STRATEGIES FOR NEW TREES

- <https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1916-2021.pdf>
- <https://watershedmg.org/learn/resources/GSI>
- <https://legacy.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/download/graybro.pdf>
- <https://www.ose.state.nm.us/WUC/PDF/NewMexGWGuide.pdf>
- <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/sites/wrrc.arizona.edu/files/Glawe%20UA%20Condensate%20Powerpoint.No%20v-12-14.pdf>

IMPACTED TREES



Citrus tree died after irrigation system malfunction



Drought stress on netleaf hackberry with insufficient irrigation



Irrigation emitters left too close to trunk; one not working



Eucalyptus planted on mound with insufficient irrigation died during drought

MANAGING WATER SUPPLIES



Checking irrigation systems can prevent malfunctions



Increase irrigation watering in summer, decrease in winter
Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjwJFnB6wJ4>



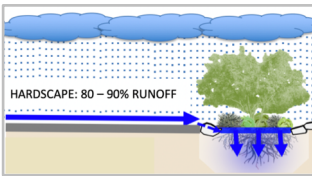
Irrigation emitters moved out to tree dripline



Soaker hose placed at dripline to support drought stressed tree. Mulch being added to reduce evaporation from soil



Soaker hose placed at dripline to support drought stressed tree. Mulch being added to reduce evaporation from soil



Urban environments yield large volumes of runoff to harvest



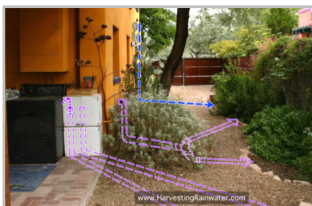
Swales retains direct rainfall



Curb cut harvests street runoff



Large-scale green stormwater infrastructure. Photo credit: MRWM Landscape Architects



Combined graywater and rooftop rainwater harvesting. Photo credit: HarvestingRainwater.com