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CITY OF COLUSA

COLUSA ROTARY CLUB

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## NEW TREE CARE TIPS

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*Thank you for participating in the Trees for tomorrow program!*

Here are some simple steps for caring for your new tree in the first year to make sure it is well established and continues to thrive.

1) For the first year following the planting of your tree, you need to **maintain a dirt "basin" of at least 16-24 inches in diameter** around the trunk so that no other vegetation—grass or weeds or flowers—will compete with your tree for water and nutrients. As the trunk grows, you should maintain at least a 12" to 18" clearance around the base.

2) Irrigation is critical in the first several months. **Fill the tree basin with two or three gallons of water at least once a week.** Use your hose, or take a five-gallon container, poke large holes in the bottom, and fill it with water and let it slowly drain into the basin. Or consider collecting the water in your shower in a bucket while waiting for the shower to warm up. This is FREE water that goes directly down the drain, and you are paying for it. On average, it takes about 2-3 gallons to warm up your shower, and your tree will be very happy with the free water! **IF we have a string of really hot days you may want to fill the tree basin twice a week.**

3) Another timely tip is to **remove the tight nursery stake from the tree that looks like it could choke the tree.** If larger stakes on the east and west side of your tree have been added after planting time, remove them as soon as a year after the planting. Your tree will not need this extra help. If you remove the stakes and your tree flops over, you need to reapply the stakes for another season. (This would be unusual and a sign that you may have other issues going on; feel free to contact one of the Parks, Recreation, and Tree commissioners for help.)