

A HEALTHY TREE is a HAPPY TREE

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Water Deficiency

Description: Trees are subject to two kinds of water deficiency stress: (1) short-term drought during one growing season, and (2) long-term drought that accumulates moisture stress over more than one growing season. The latter is the most important to trees because, in contrast to annual crop plants, trees are sensitive to year-round moisture conditions.

If moisture deficiency exists for more than one season, crown decline will usually begin.

Dieback of twigs and small branches in the upper crown usually occurs first, and later progressively larger branches are killed. Sucker growth may also appear on the main trunk and large branches of some species.

Symptoms: Leaves first begin to droop, and then they start to dry out, especially on the edges. Drought tends to be the first conclusion most make when trying to diagnose water stress. However, root damage, soil compaction, vascular wilt diseases, and insect infestations are also causes. Wind accelerates drying causing increased transpiration and evaporation from the soil. Cold weather can also play a role when prolonged temperatures freeze water and make it unavailable for uptake. Evergreens are especially susceptible to winter drying because moisture is lost through foliage continually. However, damage may not be noticed until spring when yellowing or browning of needles occurs.

Control: When lack of natural water is the cause of water stress there are several ways to alleviate this problem. Sprinklers, in-ground or oscillating can be used. A hose running very slowly on the ground will work, but must be moved for even distribution. With any watering method make sure the water is supplied slowly enough to avoid excessive run-off. When watering, water deeply and thoroughly. One inch per week is recommended.

Frady Tree Care takes great pride and passion to care for your trees.



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