**Watering trees in hot weather**

*Tree care organisations are encouraging communities to do their bit and* [*help newly planted trees survive*](https://trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Watering-Young-Trees) *the increasingly dry summer months.*

Young trees need water to survive. According to the Met Office rainfall between January and June 2022 was the lowest since 1976. Established mature trees are able to find their own water. However, it is recommended that newly planted trees are given **50 litres of water per week** during the summer months, for the first three years after planting. Around the world there are efforts to plant millions of trees to help tackle the climate crisis, but the health and survival of urban trees is threatened by increasingly dry weather.

You can help ensure healthy trees for the future over the summer months by watering any young trees near you. Planting a tree is just the start of the story and now a coalition of organisations is campaigning to make sure that tree planting efforts don’t go to waste and to ensure that aftercare plans are in place.

More than 1000 tree species are flagged as at risk due to climate change, including city dwelling oaks, maples, poplars and chestnuts. The Arboricultural Association local authority tree officer associations launched a campaign in 2020 to ensure that newly planted trees are watered regularly over the summer months.

Now, the [young tree watering campaign](https://trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Watering-Young-Trees) is now backed by key organisations from across the environmental sector. Including the Woodland Trust, who are supporting the initiative to highlight the need for essential young tree aftercare; giving the millions of trees planted a better chance of surviving into maturity.

Community watering groups have been set up across the UK utilising the downloadable posters and tree watering tags which can be printed at home and affixed to trees. Local authorities also use them to encourage residents to do what they can to water young trees nearby. The Association has also produced expanded [guidance on trees and drought](https://trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Watering-Young-Trees/Trees-and-Drought) to help establish what you can do when water usage restrictions are introduced. This year tree watering champions can also order free packs of pre printed tags to attach to young trees in need of watering.

Without proper aftercare they will not make it into maturity. Trees are part of the solution, and watering young trees is an investment in the future.

**See how you can help young trees survive**: <https://trees.org.uk/watering>

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**Notes to editors:**

Press contact: Stephen Hodsman (stephen@trees.org.uk) at the Arboricultural Association.

**Quotes:**

Arboricultural Association Chief Executive Officer John Parker said:

*“We’re so happy to see the watering campaign grow and how many organisations are now getting behind it. If tree planting schemes are going to be successful then we also need far greater awareness of arboriculture, and of tree care professionals.”*

**About the Arboricultural Association:**

The Arboricultural Association is the leading organisation in the UK for tree care professionals working in all areas of arboriculture, including central and local government, consultancy, contracting, management, production, policymaking, research and education. It has more than 3000 members in the UK and around the world, and is increasingly recognised as an international, as well as a national, leader in arboriculture. The Association is dependent on its members, its volunteers – including Trustees, Committee members and Branch officials – and a dedicated staff team operating out of the Malthouse in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire. Its vision is to inspire, support and promote the tree care community for a society that better appreciates and cares for trees.

**Tree Watering Campaign:**

The Association worked with tree officers across the country to develop new materials for a tree watering campaign which was launched in May 2020. This collaborative project with the London Tree Officers Association (LTOA), Municipal Tree Officers Association (MTOA) and Association of Tree Officers (ATO) has resulted in an information poster and watering tags which can be printed at home and affixed to tree stakes or tied to the tree. These are free to download and can be found online at [www.trees.org.uk/watering](http://www.trees.org.uk/watering)

**Young Tree Establishment Guide:**

The Association has a [free-to-download](https://www.trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Guide-to-Young-Tree-Establishment) ‘Guide to Young Tree Establishment’, which expands on the watering guide and covers key areas including ‘Why plant a tree?’, ‘Where to plant a tree?’, ‘What tree to plant?’, ‘How to plant a tree’ and ‘Young tree aftercare’.