



# It's Summertime! Water Your Trees!



Summer's here again and so I hope I can be forgiven for repeating myself on a critically important seasonal subject. As my headline says, it's about the importance of supplemental water during these long, hot and potentially dry days and weeks now upon us and ahead. Once we get past the rain-loaded frontal systems that characterize the

Unfortunately most irrigation systems that are installed primarily for lawns, shrubberies and ornamental beds are not set to properly water large established trees. In fact, frequent applications (e.g. every other day) of short periods of water (e.g. fifteen to twenty minutes) can do as much harm as good for your big trees. In clay soils that need to breathe and aerate, too little water applied too often is tantamount to placing a plastic bag over your head, cinching it at the neck and expecting you to do just fine when you breathe. With this kind of water application, the top inch or so that gets wet and stays wet effectively blocks gas exchange and re-aeration of the soil. Roots can rot.

when properly placed, very often apply water too rapidly, especially if they are on a slope. As a result, much of it is wasted. And whatever you use, try to keep the water off the trunks as much as possible. Not much can be taken up there and extended periods of wetness at the collar, especially when it is covered with vines, dense shrubberies, etc., can also encourage the beginning of various root rot diseases.



spring and fall seasons, large trees can give off (transpire) more water than is available. This means that they need our temporary help. Big trees that are not easily replaced can be stressed to a point of no return, making them susceptible to a plethora of other trouble.

Okay you say. I've got an irrigation system that takes care of that. Well, maybe not.



*We're on the Web!*  
[www.morgantreeservice.com](http://www.morgantreeservice.com)