



# Tree Tender Guide

You have committed to raising a tree for Carmel's urban forest.  
Here is what you need to know to take proper care of it.

Carmel-by-the-Sea is famous for its beautiful trees. However, they need to be replaced due to age, disease and weather changes.

Thank you for becoming a Carmel Cares Tree Tender. We think you'll find this to be a fun and rewarding activity as you help the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea replenish its urban forest. You have received a pine or oak tree seedling. These instructions apply to either.



Your tree started its life in a cone-shaped container like the one on the top left. It was delivered to you in a 1 gallon pot. By the time your tree is ready to plant in 2 - 3 years you will have transferred it into a 5 gallon pot and it will be several feet tall!

To make sure that your tree remains healthy before being planted by the Friends of Carmel Forest with your name tag, it is important that you follow these simple instructions. We will be also be giving you more instructions and education about our forest .



Shading the container and soil with wood chips or a light colored cloth will save water.



You will receive information from time to time with instructions on what to do as your tree matures and finally joins the forest.

### **Location/Sunlight**

If possible, you should put your tree in an outdoor location where it gets at least half a day of sun. Otherwise, at least some dappled sunlight will do.

### **Shading Pots**

The pots you received are typically a dark color. They can get very hot when placed in direct sunlight, which isn't healthy for the plant and causes rapid evaporation of water. So, if possible, your pots should be shaded by wrapping it with a light colored cloth or other object on the sunny side of the container. You can also "plant" the container in some wood chips to shield them.

It is also good to put some wood chips or mulch on top of the potting soil to minimize watering. Together, the shading and mulch will help keep the soil cool and keep the soil moist for longer.

### **Watering Frequency**

It is important not to over water. At first, check the soil moisture 3 times each week by sticking your entire finger into the soil. Water only when the tip of your finger is slightly moist to dry. Trees will likely need to be watered, depending on shading and season, on this general schedule:

Nov - Feb: Rarely, if at all (if it's raining)  
March - April: 1 time/week (if raining less)  
May - Oct: 2 - 3 times/week (if no rain)

### **Overwintering**

No frost protection is required.



