

Don't go with the flow!

JANUARY

Save money and your trees by **turning off your irrigation in the winter**. In colder months, your soil holds moisture longer and is less prone to drying out. Over-watering promotes root rot diseases.

I'm freezing my roots off.

FEBRUARY

Protect your tender plants during cold snaps. Mulch heavily around the base of cold-sensitive plants to prevent thermal heat from escaping from the soil. Also, plant them on the south side of a building to protect them from northern winds. Additionally, when possible, cover plants with a blanket for extra protection. Cold damage is not a concern for native trees.

Thank you very much!

MARCH

Using fallen leaves or locally composted wood mulch conserves soil moisture and provides natural fertilization. Additionally it counteracts soil compaction over time.

Leaf me alone!

APRIL

Over-pruning exposes tree tissue and bark to elements and sun scald, which in extreme cases can kill the bark and even the tree. **Don't remove more than 20% of a tree's foliage at any time.** Don't prune for the first two years after planting. Trees get energy through their leaves as if they're solar panels, and new trees need to grow and establish their roots.

Time for a check-up!

MAY

Check your trees for signs of damage and disease, including mushrooms, loss of leaves, faded leaves, cracks or holes in trunk, and chronically wet soil. If you see trails in the crevasses of the trunk, you may have termites. Termites do not eat living tree tissue. Instead, they are an indicator of internal decay. Contact a licensed arborist with questions.

Are you dense or something?

JUNE

If your tree consistently struggles, you may have compacted (or compressed) soil. Contact a licensed arborist to **assess your soil's compaction with the proper equipment**. Compacted soil prevents oxygen from reaching the roots and affects the tree's overall health.

I wouldn't do that if I were you...

JULY

With each passing year we are seeing more and more evidence of chemicals harming humans. **Try to not use chemicals in your landscape.** Your children and pets will thank you. Healthy native trees don't require pesticides. Trees are an important part of the food chain and insects need them to survive.

These things happen.

AUGUST

The best way to prevent problems is by planting healthy native trees in proper locations. Practices such as over-watering and over-pruning can make a tree more vulnerable to disease. **Once a disease is inside a tree there is often not a cure.**

We're rooting for you!

SEPTEMBER

Using organic matter as mulch helps establish beneficial organisms which help your tree digest nutrients. Allowing leaves to accumulate beneath a tree simulates a natural environment which is likely to keep your tree healthy and happy. With the right practices you can create soil your roots can thrive in.

It burns!

OCTOBER

Make sure to properly **protect your tree during construction activity**. Tree roots are sensitive to injury and can be harmed by excavation or spilled chemicals. Concrete residue or limestone powder can also alter soil chemistry and cause harm to your tree.

Think twice, plant once.

NOVEMBER

Take your time choosing the appropriate native species and proper location to ensure that your tree is happy and healthy in its new home. Consider how big the tree is going to grow both above and below ground, and how it will impact nearby utilities and buildings. Ideally the tree should have enough soil to accommodate its mature size. Tree planting season spans from November to February.

Create a new tradition.

DECEMBER

Instead of cutting down a tree in December, consider creating a **new tradition of planting a tree for the holidays**. Consider sponsoring a tree through SOUL to offset the impact of the one in your living room.

TREE TIPS BY TIM



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Sustaining Our Urban Landscape (SOUL) is dedicated to driving a resilient and environmentally equitable New Orleans and improving our stormwater systems through reforesting our city.

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