

Recommendation Regarding Size of Required Trees

When establishing a new landscape the City of Norman will recognize that container grown trees less than 2" in caliper require less water thus having a greater survivability rate compared to large caliper trees.

Trees that are larger than 2" in caliper are generally field grown with a larger crown, and thus, a more extensive root system. At harvest, a portion of the roots are cut when the tree is dug. With the loss of a portion of the root system, the tree sustains greater shock and will require more water to establish over a longer period of time. A 2" or smaller, container grown tree will experience less shock at the time of planting because the roots are contained and not cut during harvest. Furthermore, the tree will require less water due to the size of the tree and its contained root system.

The size of the tree selected should be considered depending on the site, location and general landscape environment. For example, larger trees may be required in parks where a smaller tree may not survive due to potential damage by park users. A smaller sized tree would be acceptable where it may be contained in a landscape bed or in a peripheral buffer and not exposed to possible damage.