

# Tree maintenance plan example

## 1. Identify tree

**Tree 1:** White Oak tree

**Age:** 9 months

**Height:** 24 inches

**Location:** Front yard – full sun

## 2. Purpose of plan

The purpose of this tree management plan is to form practices that protect, maintain the trees on X property. Some specific objective of this plan are:

- First and foremost the safety of the community living with the trees
- Second the health of the tree
- Third the aesthetic appeal of the tree

## 3. Watering plan:

Age	Water (Gallons)	Frequency p/w
0 - 6 months	3	7
6 - 12 months	8	4
1 - 2 years	10	4
2 - 5 years	20	2
5 - 8 years	40	1
> 8 years	The tree should now be deep rooted enough to draw from the water table below ground.	

## 4. Pruning Schedule:

Depending on the age of the tree, the pruning schedule will differ. The below time frames are not hard and fast rules as all trees grow at different rates and require formative pruning more regularly than others. The below is a good guide if the trees do not need pruning beforehand due to encroaching on buildings or walkways.

**a) Objectives** – Clear objectives need to be established before you prune. These objectives might change from one prune to another and should be clearly stated before you start.

See below the schedule for common pruning objectives

Tree age	Frequency	Common objectives
< 5 years	annually	Structural, train to single leader
5 - 15 years	2 - 5 years	Structural, Clearance, thinning
15 - 25 years	5 years	Thin, deadwood, clearance
25 years +	5 - 8 years	Dead, dying, diseased & defective branches.

## Common objectives of pruning:

**1. Raising the canopy “canopy lift”** – This is the pruning of the lower branches of a tree to allow more light into a building or to grass below. It might also be to allow foot or car traffic to pass more easily.



Canopy Lift

**2. Thinning the tree** – Canopy thinning is the practice of removing some inner branches to let me light and air-flow to the center of the tree. This reduces the instance of fungal issues moving forward.



Canopy Thinning

**3. Reduction** – This refers to the removal of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> order branches to reduce the overall size of the tree.



Canopy Reduction

**4. Obstacle clearance** – It is common to remove branches that are growing into signs, buildings or power lines.

**5. Dead wood removal** – This is the practice of routinely removing dead branches that accumulate on mature trees. Some trees more commonly get branches that die and shed. It is better for the tree and pedestrians that these branches are removed before they fall.

**Ground cover:** Mulched area up to 20 inches outside the drip line of the trees canopy.

**Fertilize:** This should be done once every 3 – 4 years no matter the age. You will need to be particularly careful with juvenile trees that can die from been given too much chemical fertilizer. Your best bet is compost or any type of natural fertilizer.