

# Landscape Maintenance to Conserve Water

*Additional steps to reduce water to your landscape.*

## Pruning

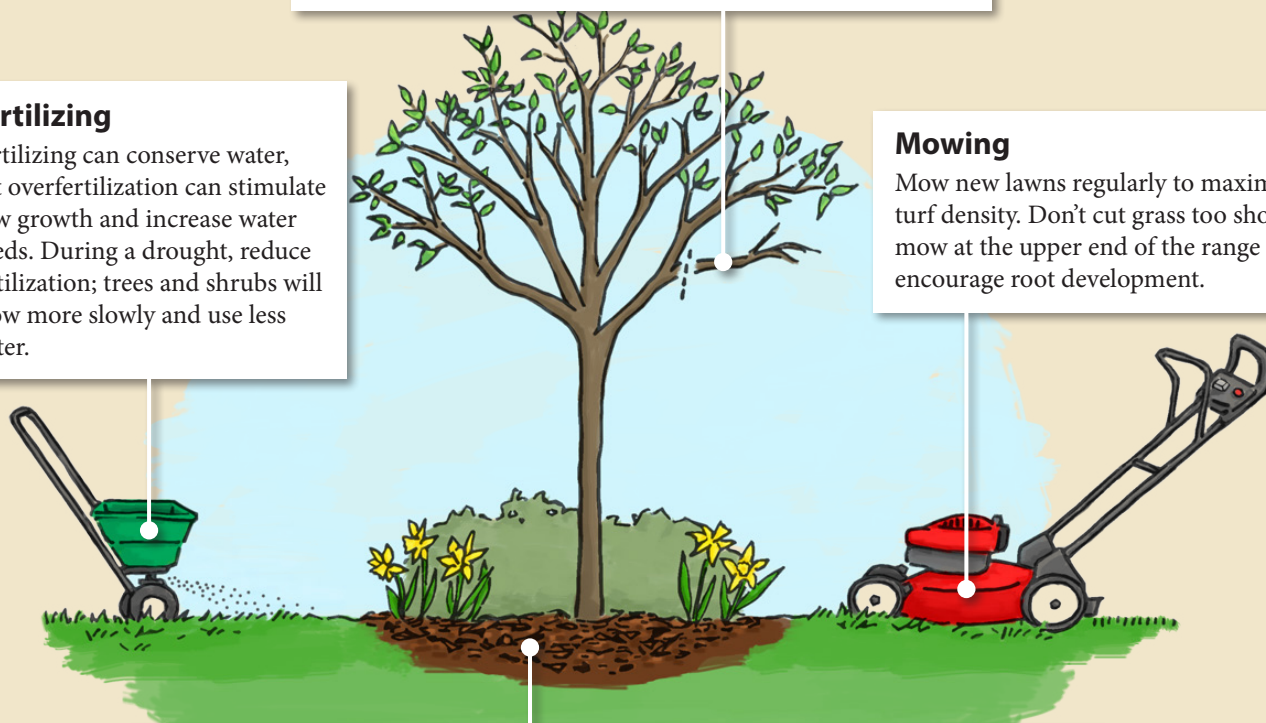
New trees and shrubs need minimal pruning. For established plants, prune in late winter or spring to stimulate growth. Remove only dead or diseased branches.

## Fertilizing

Fertilizing can conserve water, but overfertilization can stimulate new growth and increase water needs. During a drought, reduce fertilization; trees and shrubs will grow more slowly and use less water.

## Mowing

Mow new lawns regularly to maximize turf density. Don't cut grass too short; mow at the upper end of the range to encourage root development.



## Mulch

A 3- to 5-inch layer of mulch reduces evaporation 70 percent. Make sure the water penetrates through the mulch and reaches the soil.

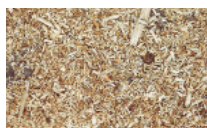


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**Larger-diameter organic mulches:** shredded bark, bark chips, bark dust, and conifer needles. You can apply these mulches 3 to 5 inches deep since they don't readily decompose or compact.



Photo: Rasbak/CC BY-NC 2.0

**Small-diameter organic mulches:** sawdust, decomposed compost, and dried grass clippings. A 2- to 3-inch layer of these products is sufficient and allows for air exchange between the soil and atmosphere.



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**Inorganic mulch:** lava rock, river rock, and landscape fabrics.

Tip: Apply mulch evenly and leave a few inches bare around the stem or trunk of the plant.