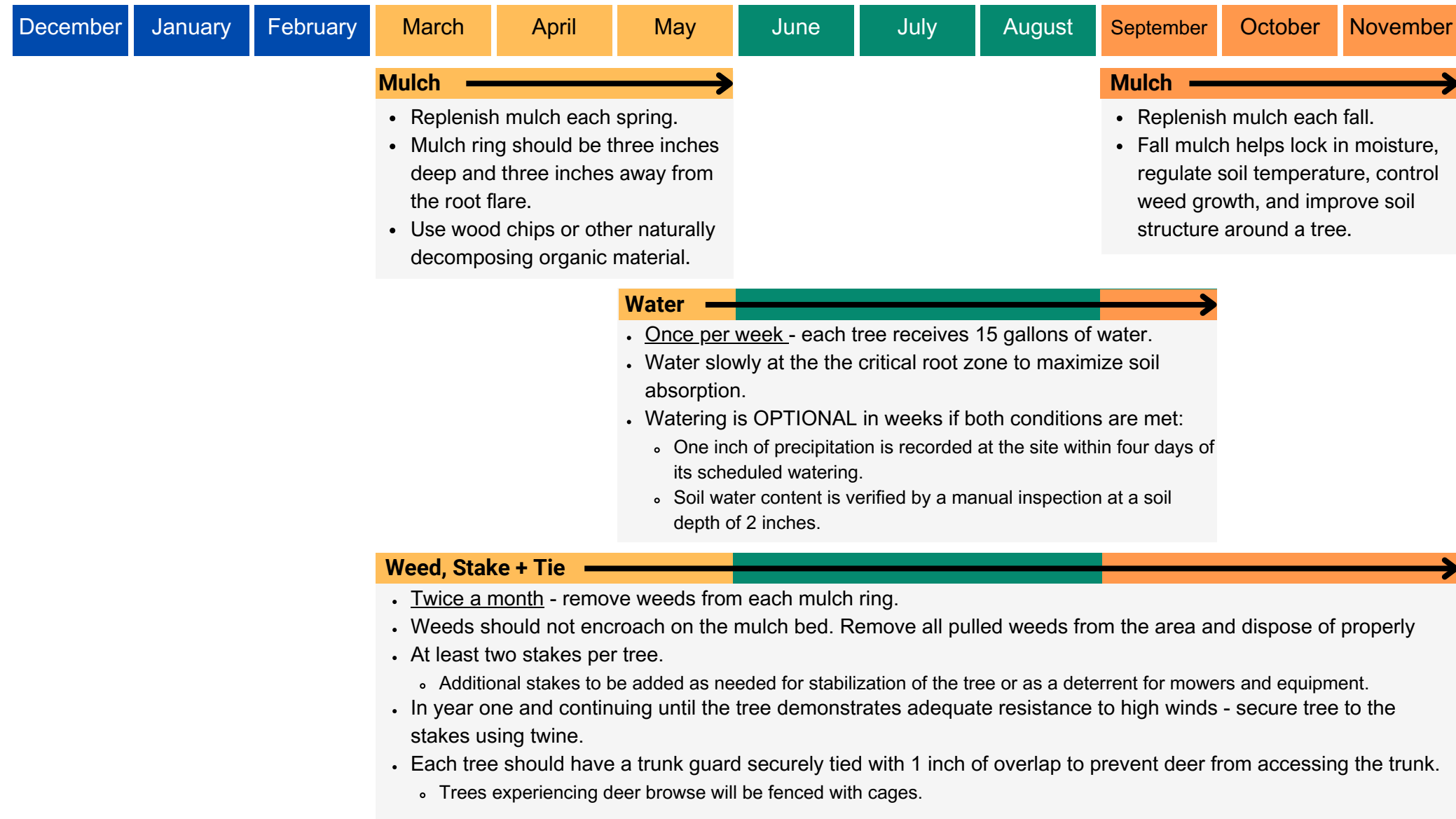


Planting Trees: Standard of Care Timeline



Whether trees are planted in the spring or the fall, it is important to help them establish. The first three years are vital to growing healthy trees that will continue to support our urban canopy.

Years 1-3



Year 4



Young Tree Training

Remove the following branches:

1. Broken, diseased, dying, or dead branches.
2. Water sprouts and root suckers.
3. Crossing and rubbing branches.
4. Competing leaders.
5. Branches conflicting with infrastructure.

Do not remove more than 25-30% of the tree's canopy in the same season. Once the budget has been reached, establish future priorities.

Inspection

- Inspect trees once in the spring.
- Identify and schedule any future maintenance needs (i.e. replacing dead trees, pruning circling roots, installing deer caging, adding additional stakes, etc.)

Inspection

- Inspect trees once in the fall.
- Evaluate overall health of each tree (note the state of the roots, trunk, branches, and leaves).
- Remove any dead or damaged branches.
- Check for girdling/circling roots.
- Ensure that any stakes, ties, or tree guards remaining on the tree are not starting to girdle the trunk.
 - Remove unnecessary accessories.

Years 5-6



Inspection

- Once per year - inspect trees.
- Correct any issues and perform missed maintenance from years one through four.

Tree Care Tips + Techniques

- Good tree care begins with selecting the **right tree** and planting it in the **right place**.
- Before planting a tree, check out some resources on tree selection or consult a certified arborist.
 - TreeSelector-ClevelandMetroparks.com
 - ArborDay.org/Trees/RightTreeandPlace