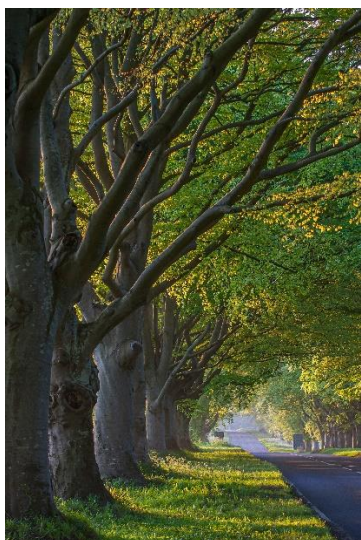


## Caring for Street or 'Civic' Trees



“Planting and caring for a civic tree in memory of a loved one is a wonderful way to celebrate their life. Looking after the tree and watching it grow can be very rewarding. Why not plant one tree every year and create a wonderful legacy”

Windsor resident Martin has planted many civic trees in recent years and has a wealth of experience when it comes to ensuring the trees establish and mature successfully. Here he shares his top tips in a 'watering checklist' based on what he has found works best.

[Trees for Streets](#) is the national street tree sponsorship scheme, check out their website which is packed full of information and resources if you are interested in planting a civic tree.

Photo by Richard Loader on Unsplash.

1. Buy a Tregator from PG Horticulture – [www.pghorticulture.co.uk](http://www.pghorticulture.co.uk)
2. Buy an Aqua Roll water carrier (40 litre capacity) from Amazon. They are used by caravan owners.
3. Buy a Whale Easy Bailer '55' or Seaflo hand bilge pump (with a barrel length of 500mm or more and diameter of 55mm or less to fit the Aqua Roll) from Amazon. They are used by boat owners.
4. Buy a plastic spring clamp from Amazon or B&Q.
5. Check out the videos on YouTube on how to use a Tregator.
6. Cable-tie the Tregator zip in place to stop the bag from being stolen. Use a sharp bradawl to make a hole for the cable-tie. Buy a bradawl from Amazon.
7. Ensure the two small water drip holes are clear and free of mud to let the water flow out. The Tregator should take around 5 hours to empty. Sometimes the 2 x little drip holes at the bottom of the Tregator become blocked. Make the holes a bit bigger using a bradawl and this solves the problem.
8. Use the clamp to keep the bilge pump hose attached to the Tregator whilst you use two hands to pump the water from the Aqua Roll water carrier. Pump is made out of plastic so be careful that you don't snap the shaft.

## Watering Checklist - Prepared by Martin Gibbons



9. Give the tree a 20 litre drink of water via the Treegator twice a week. After filling, lift up the top tabs on the Treegator gently to clear the bottom drip holes.
10. The Aquaroll takes 40 litres so it's great to water 2 x trees at the same time, twice a week.
11. Ants can sometimes nest under the dark, damp Treegator. Prevent this by fixing a hook at the top of the support stake and hooking the Treegator up off the soil the day after you have filled it. Leave it a few inches above the soil until you refill the following week. In public areas I use an eye fitting and tie the Treegator up off the ground with some string to stop kids messing around with it.
12. Water between start of April and end of August. DO NOT water the tree during autumn and winter. Put a note on your fridge door to remind you of the days to water and the days to raise up the Treegator.
13. Remove the Treegator over the winter months to prevent any vandalism etc. Wash the outside of the bag to clear the drip holes.
14. Keep watering the new tree for the first 2 years, during the tree's growing season, April to August inclusive.
15. Protect the young tree against damage against by putting a strimmer guard around the base of the trunk and mulch to suppress weeds and grass that will compete with the tree for water.

Please let me know if you have any ideas to improve this Checklist for others to use. This Checklist is NOT under Copyright. Please pass this information on far and wide.

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