

# Managing Landscape Trees During Drought

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Get Ahead or Get Parched

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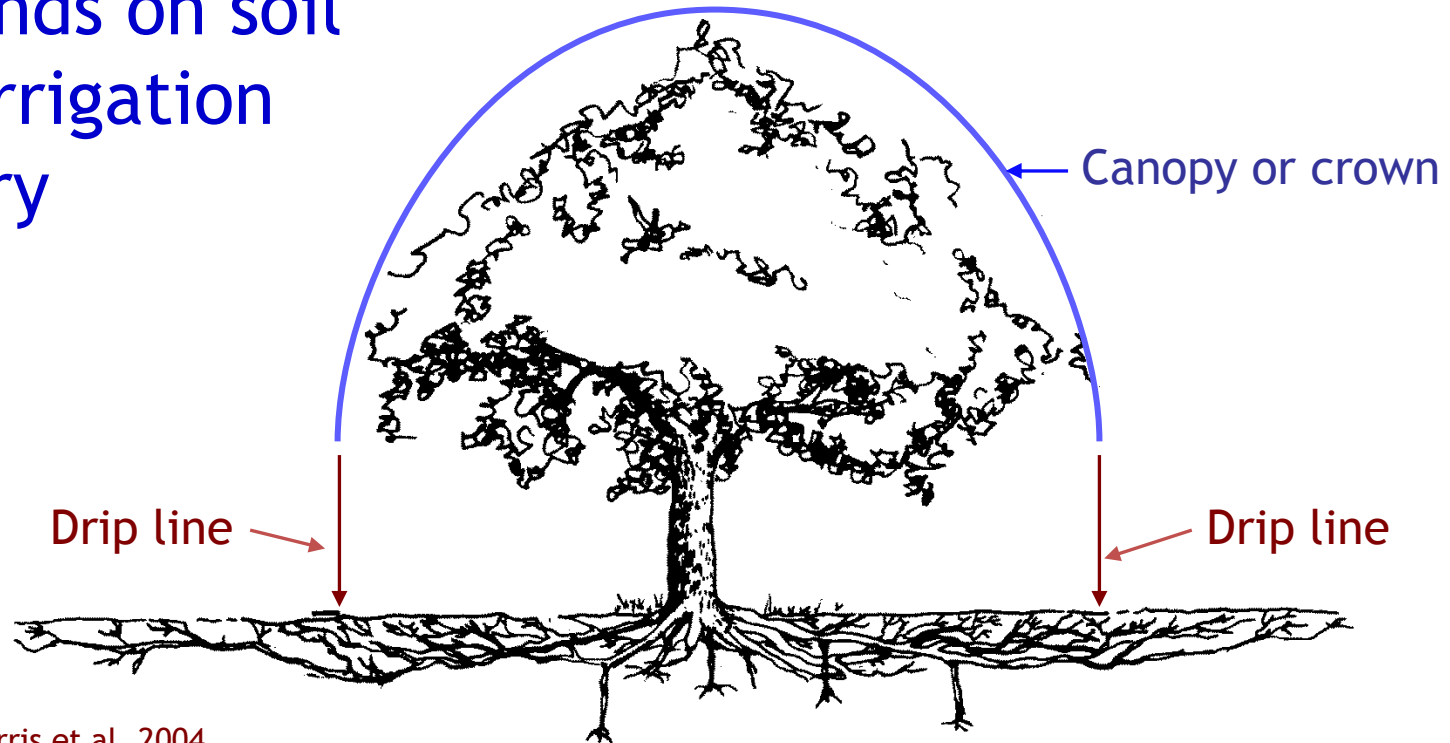
# What's the problem?

- Improper tree selection
- Trees in lawns
- Shallow roots



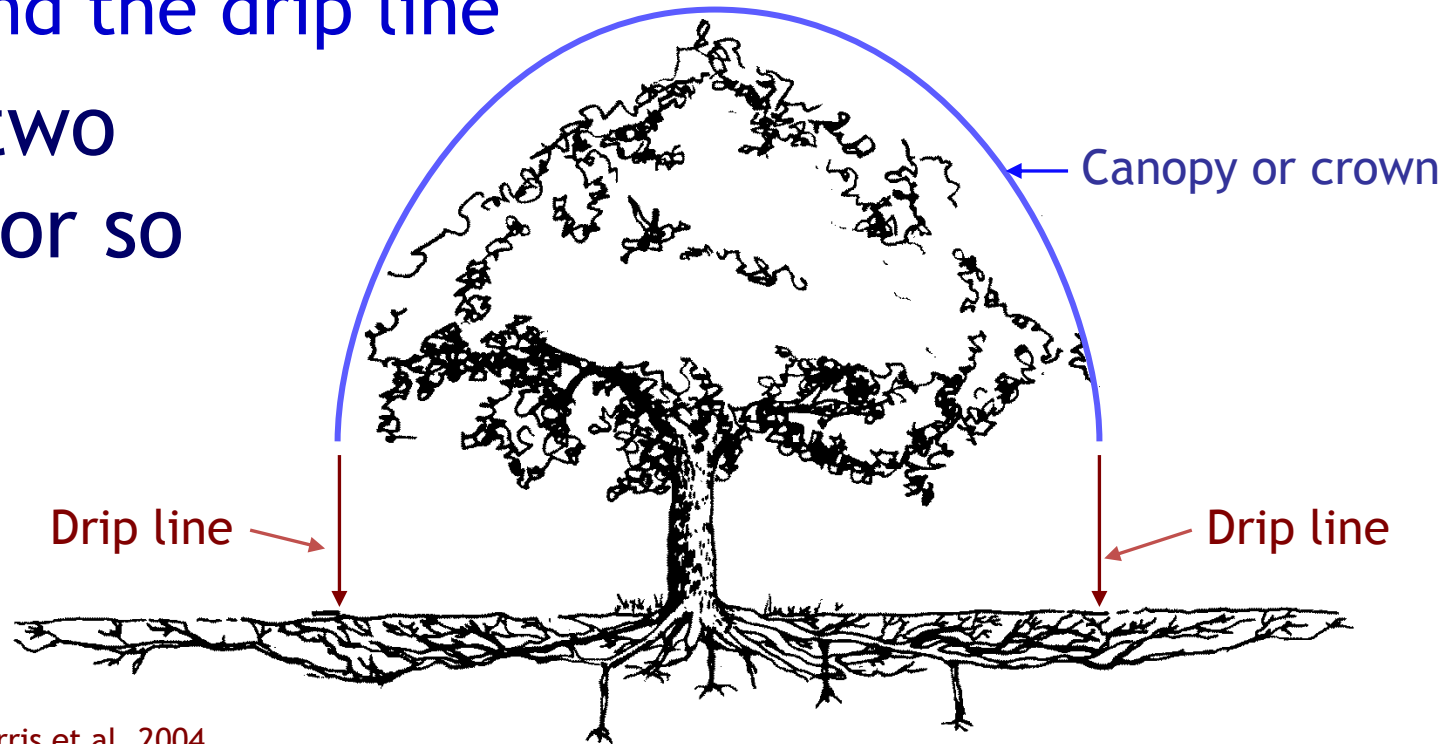
# Tree roots

- Relationship to canopy
- May be deep
  - Depends on soil and irrigation history



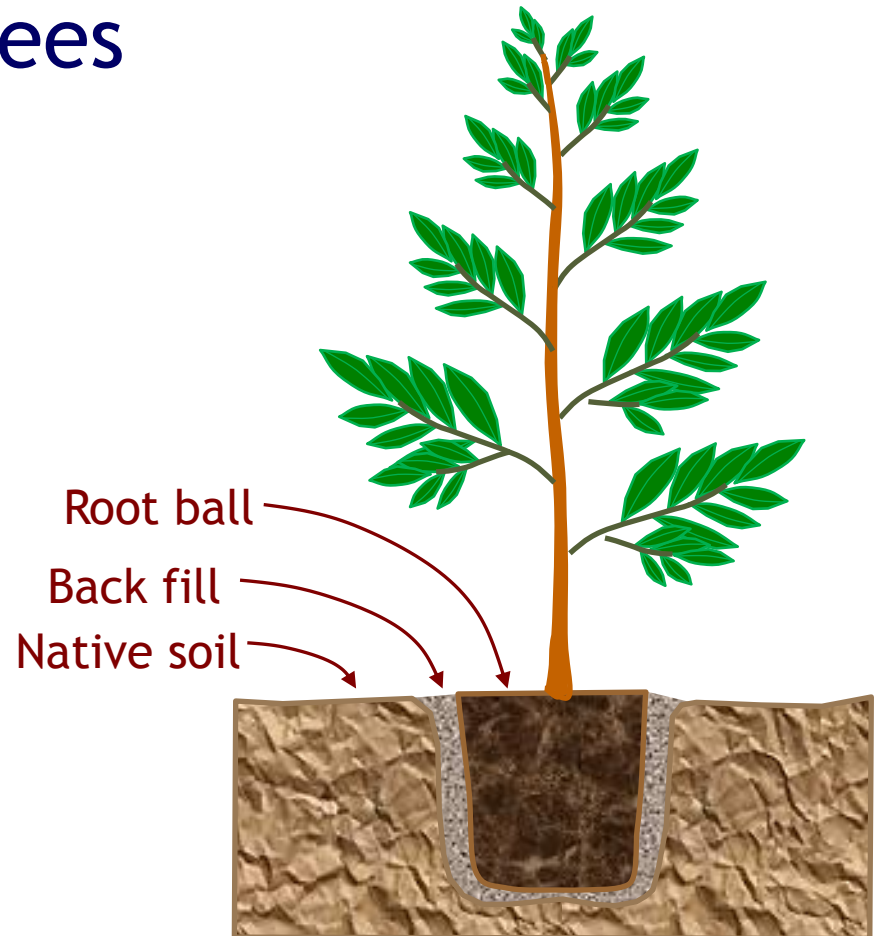
# How to Water Trees

- Deep to 2 -3 feet
- Beneath the canopy
  - Beyond the drip line
- Every two weeks or so



# Tree roots

- Recently planted trees
  - Roots are mostly within the container soil ball
  - Roots may be just entering the native soil
  - Will take several years to fully establish



# Things that increase water use

- Heat absorbing surfaces nearby
  - Parking lots
  - Large concrete surfaces
  - West and south facing walls



# Recognize water stress

- Incipient
  - Color change to bluish or grayish green
- Temporary
  - Flagging, wilting
- Permanent wilting
  - Desiccation, drying
  - Nonrecoverable



# Secondary effects

- Susceptibility to:
  - Insects
    - e.g., Borers
      - ambrosia beetles
      - longhorned eucalyptus borers
  - Diseases
    - e.g., Root rots
      - *Phytophthora* and Oak root fungus
      - *Armillaria*




# Reduce tree water requirements

- Light pruning to reduce leaf area
  - DO NOT prune heavily
- Change irrigation schedule SLOWLY
  - 3x per week original schedule
  - 2x per week for 2 weeks
  - 1x per week for 2 weeks
  - Finally, 1x per 2 weeks

# Things to do

- Water deep, but not too often
- Keep water away from trunk
- Avoid runoff, apply water slowly
- Mulch!





**Thank you**  
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