

How to

PROTECT YOUR TREES

during turf removal

Existing, mature trees are a valuable and attractive part of your landscape. As your business, commercial property or HOA removes decorative grass in compliance with state law, these tips can help you evaluate and protect your tree investment.

First steps

- › Visit snwa.com to learn if incentives are available through the Water Smart Landscapes program. Apply before you start your project.
- › Select a licensed, insured contractor. Consider also hiring an arborist for tree concerns. Visit snwa.com to find Water Smart Contractors and tips for working with contractors.
- › Assess each tree for its health and condition. Consider removing weak or older trees. Visit snwa.com and search “find plants” to find replacement trees that are water-efficient and well-adapted to our climate.
- › Complete your project during the cool season if possible.

During your conversion

- › Remove undesirable trees first. Protect remaining trees. Identify and protect major roots. Consider placing a fence around the edge of each tree crown to prevent root and soil damage.
- › Provide adequate irrigation to remaining trees throughout the project.
- › Use non-selective herbicides to kill turf. Do not use equipment to strip off valuable topsoil. Once the grass is dead, use a de-thatcher to remove turf down to bare dirt.
- › Install your new landscape elements, such as new trees, shrubs, boulders.
- › Minimize trenching and other equipment use near trees when installing irrigation. This helps avoid soil compaction, which harms roots' ability to take up water and nutrients.
- › Install sufficient drip irrigation for each tree to supply water under the full canopy. Your irrigation design should include a sufficient number of emitters extending over the entire root protection zone, or use inline drip tubing.
- › Near older trees with extensive root systems, you may opt to place drip tubing directly on the soil surface. If possible, place all older trees on a separate irrigation control valve.
- › Use landscape fabric as a permeable weed barrier over irrigation, then install organic or inorganic mulch over that barrier.
- › Monitor your irrigation system closely to ensure that existing trees and new landscape plants are receiving sufficient water. After the first 30 days, adjust watering according to mandatory, seasonal watering schedules and find drip-irrigation tips on snwa.com.



*Supporting information
courtesy of the Southern
Nevada Arborist Group,
Ivsnag.org.*



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