



Dry Season Information: Young fruit trees

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Strategies for management of young fruit trees during a dry season

- Delay planting as long as possible to assess the season and water allocations. It may be easier to hold new trees in a nursery site for the season if water is short and plant next year.
- Water new trees in thoroughly at planting time - especially smaller trees with finer, more easily dried out root systems.
- Eliminate weed competition early and widen the weedicide strip.
- Irrigate close to the tree, not the whole paddock. (eg. Invert micro-jets so that the surface wetting pattern is reduced or replace existing micro-sprinklers with smaller wetting pattern micro-jets.
- Summer prune more frequently.
- Remove any fruit on trees planted this season or last year (trellised trees excepted).
- Make sure the irrigation system is in place and fully operational by the time trees are planted.
- Mulch newly planted trees after the frost period is past if straw or other material is available. This reduces water losses from soil evaporation.

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