

# It's a Marathon

The word marathon usually brings to mind the legendary April foot race from Hopkinton to Boston. However, there is another local marathon taking place every day as scientists and physicians at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and those at other local institutions, race to find a cure for cancer.

During the past 6 months this terrible disease has struck close to home, afflicting a number of our clients, friends and family members. In order to help raise awareness and offer support for their efforts, our CEO, Mark Tobin will participate in this year's 14th Annual Boston Marathon "Jimmy Fund Walk" on Sunday, September 29, 2002.

On several occasions Mark has walked half the race, but this year his goal is to finish the entire 26.2 mile route in memory of his dad, whom he lost suddenly to cancer in March.

If anyone would like to sponsor Mark or make a pledge to support The Jimmy Fund Walk, please refer to the information below.

Thank you for your support.

To make a contribution by mail:

Checks are payable to:  
"Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk"...  
and mailed to:

Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk  
Ten Brookline Place West, 6th floor  
Brookline, MA 02445

If your contribution is in honor of a Walk participant, please indicate the walker's name in the memo line area of your check, or include a short note to ensure your gift is processed efficiently and accurately.

To make a contribution online:

Visit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institution's homepage at [www.dfci.harvard.edu](http://www.dfci.harvard.edu), then click on the link for **The Jimmy Fund**.



## GUARANTEE OF SATISFACTION

If you are not satisfied with any treatment or completed job, let us know. We will resolve the situation to your satisfaction; no questions about it. Our goal is to not only make sure your trees, shrubs, and lawn are as healthy as possible, but also to provide you with the peace of mind a satisfaction guarantee can bring.

## FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

In response to your requests, Hartney Greymont now accepts payment through Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express credit cards.

Notify your arborist when you schedule the work and he will see that your credit card is debited in lieu of invoicing when the work is completed.

## Did You Know?

Hartney Greymont provides:

### LANDSCAPE SERVICES

- Design
- Planting
- Large Tree Moving

### TREE AND SHRUB CARE SERVICES

- Shade and Ornamental Tree Pruning
- Shrub Pruning
- Cabling and Bracing
- Tree and Shrub Fertilization
- Insect and Disease Diagnosis/Control
- I.P.M. and Plant Health Care Programs

### LAWN CARE SERVICES

- Fertilization, Weed, Insect and Disease Control Programs
- I.P.M. Lawn Health Care Program
- Seed and Sod Installations
- Over-Seeding, Aeration, Thatching

### Hartney Greymont, Inc.

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ANDOVER CONCORD NEEDHAM



## Ample Moisture Means Better Growth

“Thank goodness for a wet spring”. Obviously these are the words of an arborist and not a travel agent. After months of below average rainfall, our weather pattern has shifted. We received above average rainfall in March, April, May and the first portion of June.

According to the U. S. Geologic Survey, surface water levels in Massachusetts have returned to normal levels, as have 6 of 8 ground water monitoring wells. It seems the drought is over. What implication does this return to abundance have for our trees?

In almost all cases, consistent moisture during the active growing season is extremely beneficial. Water is necessary for photosynthesis and plant growth. In fact, moisture is the key determinate in shoot elongation. Shoot growth takes place from preformed initials called buds. Buds form during the previous growing season and contain all the cells, which will expand into new leaves and shoots; it can be compared to a not yet inflated balloon.

As growth starts in the spring, the buds begin to expand. The amount of water available during expansion is the primary factor that influences the amount of annual growth. This is especially true in determining the amount of xylem, or wood trees that produce to thicken their trunks each year. This direct connection between water supply and annual wood production is the basis for the science of dendrochronology. Dendrochronology is the science of studying the width of tree rings, in order to establish



ages of trees or wood, or the years in which they grew.

What are the implications for your property? There are two distinct issues of which to be conscious. One issue is vigor, which is important for older or previously watered stressed trees, the second is crown density or structural integrity.

Older trees or trees which have suffered from drought over the past few years cannot recover their vigor in

one season. Several years of below normal precipitation can weaken trees, and they will require several years to recover. It is important to continue to take any required effort to rebuild their health. This spring's rain alone is not adequate.

On the other hand, healthy trees and shrubs have grown an extraordinary amount this season. It appears to be the best year for growth in a decade. Because of the unusual amount of growth, it

will be important to check your trees' structures and insure that an over full crown does not put too much weight on weak limbs or decayed areas.

Further, this year's profuse growth may require a few additional hours of work, when we perform summer shrub or ornamental tree pruning.

In short, we can be grateful for a wonderful growing season, which will help our plants begin to recover from several challenging dry years.

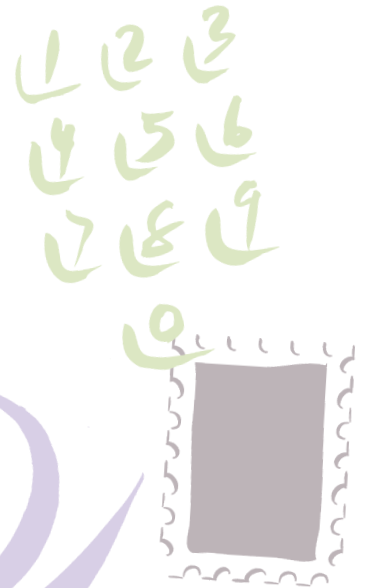
# Improved Communication and Convenience

In order to offer more timely information and better service, we are increasing our capability to communicate electronically. We hope to send our newsletter, timely tips, updates and possibly renewal notices in this fashion in the future.

We also welcome comments, suggestions and recommendations. We hope you find the benefits to include more timely and effective communication with your arborist and our group.

We are now collecting e-mail addresses for our contacts list. You can register in several ways.

- 1.) On line at [trees@hartney.com](mailto:trees@hartney.com)
- 2.) Via the enclosed return post card
- 3.) Or we can take your information over the telephone

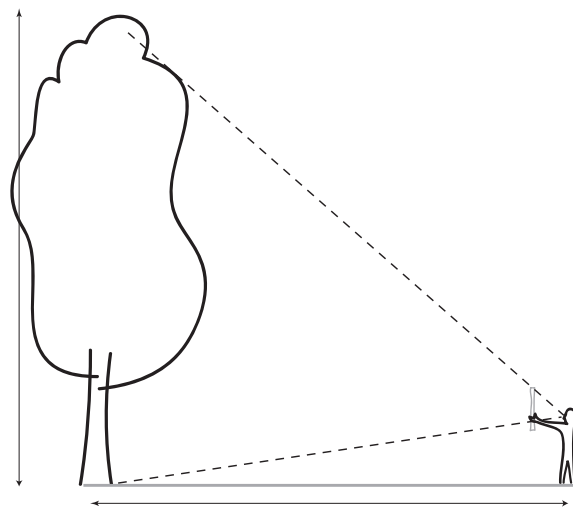


## How Tall is That Tree?

Have you ever wondered how tall that tree in your backyard really is?

Here is an easy, accurate and low tech method to measure the height of the tree. By creating an equal triangle with your eye and a stick, you can determine very accurately the height of a tree.

Select a stick slightly longer than arm's length. With your arm straight in front of you (at 90 degrees to your body), hold the stick up to your cheek with the opposite end cradled between your thumb and forefinger. Now, as you face the object/tree to be measured, use the hand of your opposite arm to rotate the stick to a vertical position, forming a 90-degree corner



with your arm and stick. A triangle is created from the ends of the stick and back to your eye.

Look over your thumb and sight the base of the tree. Now, without moving your head, look up over the top of the stick. To measure the entire height of the tree, move back or forward until the total tree is visually in the stick length. Mark the spot on the ground before you and measure back to the base of the tree: that measurement will be the tree's height.

With a little practice, you will become very accurate with this technique. Of course, if the tree grows on a slope, not a level grade, allowances will need to be made.



*TCI Magazine*

# High-Tech Solution: ET-signal Irrigation Controllers

**H**ow much water trees require depends upon the type of tree and its evapotranspiration rate. Evapotranspiration, or ET, is the total amount of water lost from the soil through evaporation or used by trees to take in nutrients and control temperature. Most trees suffer when they receive too much water. Applying the right amount of water, based on the local weather and the tree's actual need, is the key to using water efficiently.

Unfortunately, homeowners often overwater their lawn, which in turn surpasses a tree's real needs. It is not difficult to understand why. Computing and setting landscape-irrigation time based on weather changes is a complicated, time-consuming and never-ending task. However, new irrigation-scheduling technology can change how green industry professionals and homeowners save landscape water.

New wireless technology transmits local weather data each week directly to homes equipped with ET-receiving irrigation controllers, setting new and efficient irrigation schedules. This method of programming irrigation controllers provides the right amount of the right tie for maximum plant health and water efficiency.

The technology was tested in a one-year study in Orange County, California. The study showed that ET irrigation-control technology resulted in home-landscape water savings of 17 percent to 25 percent, and it indicated that water savings increase dramatically as the size of the landscape increases. The study indicated that homes using moderate amounts

of water for landscapes could save 57 gallons of water per day. This translates into an average annual savings of a least 20,000 gallons of water saved per home.

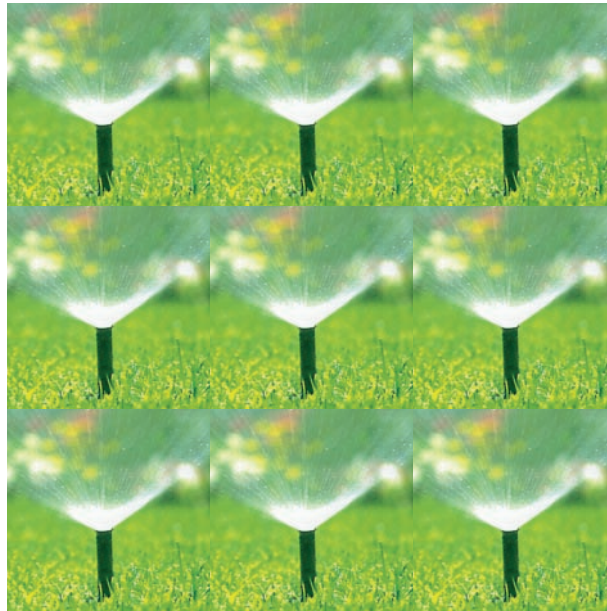
The study found these additional benefits of ET irrigation-control technology:

- All test-home residents said they found the controller to be convenient because they did not have to manually set, change or reprogram irrigation times.
- The annual water cost-savings, at \$114, was greater than the yearly ET weather-data broadcast signal fee of \$48.
- Homeowners reported that their landscapes look as good as or better than they did prior to use of the ET irrigation-control technology.

- The technology can send a reduced-percentage signal prescribed during drought periods. (This need would be established by the local water agency to help meet drought and/or emergency shortages automatically. For example: If an area needs to reduce water use by 20 percent, the broadcast system can send an ET signal that is 20 percent lower across the part of the customer base that is outfitted with the technology.)

ET irrigation system controllers are a prime example of how technology and science can help policymakers, planners, environmentalists, homeowners and businesses use water efficiently in urban landscapes.

*Tree Care Industry, 2002*



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## Tree Trivia

**What kind of tree gets struck by lightning more than any other kind?**

Oaks, because they tend to grow taller than most other species.

**Trees make up what percentage by weight of all the green plants?**

Trees make up an estimated 80% by weight of the

49 trillion tons of green plants on the planet.

**How much water can a tree take up from the soil on a warm summer day?**

A large leafy tree may take up as much as a ton of water from the soil every day.

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