



CITY OF LOMPOC

Can you help these trees live another 80 years?



The South H Street Italian Stone Pines are 80 years old, and they could last another 80 years with proper care. The City of Lompoc regularly prunes and monitors these heritage trees. But there are several simple things that you can do in the parkway next to your house that could also help extend the lives of these trees. If you have a landscape service, please share this information with them.

- 1) **Water at the right time** – Italian Stone Pines are like our native Coast Live Oaks in that regular summer watering is harmful because it promotes fungal diseases. Most mature Italian Stone Pines are drought tolerant and don't need additional water. Irrigation from lawn sprinklers is not recommended, and neither is dog urine. During times of drought, one good soaking with a garden hose under the edge of the canopy in the spring and once again in the fall should be sufficient. The objective is to slowly wet the soil down to a depth of about two feet.
- 2) **Thick Organic Mulch** – Three inches of pine needle mulch under the canopy is the best and easiest way to help the pines. The mulch helps retain moisture, lowers ground temperature, and provides a home for microorganisms that are beneficial to the soil. Don't blow needles away or rake them up, leave them in the parkway. Concrete, black plastic covered with gravel, and irrigated lawns are not recommended in the parkway areas around the tree
- 3) **Keep the trunk and any lower branch crotches clean and dry** – The trunk of the tree needs air to circulate around it to keep it dry and free from potential fungal diseases. Nothing should touch the trunk or remain in any of the lower branch crotches – no pine needles, dirt, grass, rocks, ivy, shrubs – nothing. Spray irrigation that hits the trunk is very harmful. Any sprinkler head that hits the trunk should be turned off, and better yet, the entire parkway system should be shut down.
- 4) **Notify the City of significant changes in the tree** – Significant changes include;
 - Changes in the amount of lean of a tree
 - Cracks or bulges developing in a branch within three feet of attachment to a trunk or major branch.
 - Appearance of any mushrooms, conks or cankers on the tree. Note: green moss on the ground is a sign that there is too much watering taking place.

For questions about this memo, or if you have important information about your trees, call the City of Lompoc Urban Forestry Division at 875-8034