

Is my tree dead?

You can determine whether it is dead as follows.

1. Look for any signs of visible life, such as a leaf. The leaf may be green but crispy, thus the leaf is dead. Then Look for tiny buds that may be forming, the size of a pin head. If there is no visible sign of life then.....
2. With your fingernail or a sharp instrument, such as a knife, nick a branch by taking off a sliver of bark and look for any sign of green under the bark. If there is no sign bend the branch. If the branch is flexible there may be life. If it snaps like a twig it is dead.
3. Continue looking for signs of life as above by nicking, the branches and working your way down to the base of the trunk.

The bark may also look wrinkled or an undertone of red, which is a sign of death. If there is still no sign of life continue looking for life into any exposed roots. If there is no sign of life, remove the tree from the pot and look for signs of life in the roots. The roots, if dead will probably be soft from watering and there may be signs of rot. If underwatered the roots may be brittle. If this is so, then the tree is dead and there is nothing that can be done.

Should you find signs of life, place the tree in a shaded outside area where it does not receive any direct sunshine, only natural shaded sunlight. Do not feed the tree. Water every day, but do not over water. The roots need air and over watering will cause root rot.