

# CARING FOR YOUR NEW TREE OR SHRUB

Make sure you know what conditions your plant needs to thrive. Our plants are kept in optimal conditions while at our store. It is up to you to choose one right for your landscape. Always feel free to ask advice!

**HOW TO PLANT**-Install your new plant correctly: Dig a hole as deep as the plant's root ball and twice as wide. The crown of the plant (where the roots and trunk meet) should be at or slightly above the soil surface. If roots are circling tightly in the pot, tease them out by hand or cut them in a few places if necessary. Loosen any burlap tied around the crown. You may remove it if you desire, but this is not necessary as the burlap will dissolve in the soil. Be sure not to break the rootball while planting. Use at least half of the native soil to backfill the hole. If your soil is poor, add a soil blend with the native soil. Amendments for clay soil include a blend of compost, peat moss & other important nutrients. We recommend ***Organic Garden Soil by Natural Guard or Ultimate Potting Mix from Fertilome***. Firm the soil around the rootball, but don't compact. Mulch the area, using a 2"-3" layer of high-quality mulch. Use caution as to not mound soil at the base of the plant. Stake your plant if necessary. Remove any stakes after a minimum of 6 months year.

**WATER**- New plantings require more frequent watering until they are established. It is always best to do a touch test to determine when water is needed. Feel the soil around the root of the plant, about 2-3" deep, & water when dry. This method is preferred over scheduled watering because there are many factors that affect water needs. Rainfall, location, season, and plant type are major factors to consider when watering. Below are a few suggested guidelines that will help you determine when watering is necessary. Keep in mind that during the first 10 days after planting, daily watering may be necessary. After that, you may begin tapering off watering to every other or every third day. After three or 4 weeks, you may be able to water only as needed to be determined by a touch test. Watch for signs of water stress and adjust according to your plant needs. Wilting & browning of leaf tips are signs drought stress. Yellow leaves, especially leaves located at the base of the plant, followed by a leaf drop are indicators of over watering.

- Over watering & under watering are equally detrimental to plants
- Water plants in early morning or evening
- Always use a hose end hand attachment
- Watering slowly, deeply & less frequently is better than light, shallow watering more often
- Water at the base of the plant & keep water off the leaves
- Allow the soil dry out between watering events
- Don't keep the soil constantly soaked or root rot can develop
- Plants in full sun dry out faster than plants in the shade
- Shallow rooted perennials need more water than deeper rooted shrubs & trees

**FERTILIZER**- Soon after planting, apply a root stimulating or starter fertilizer. Any other fertilizers are too strong and can burn or shock the plants. We recommend **Fertilome Root Stimulator** or **Espoma Bio-tone Starter Organic Plant Food** to be applied as directed. After 6-8 weeks, feed plants with the appropriate fertilizer. We carry several options for evergreens, blooming plants, trees & shrubs. We are happy to help you choose the perfect product based on your plant's specific needs. There are many organic choices available from **Espoma** & non-organic choices from **Fertilome**.

**PRUNING & TRIMMING**- Each plant has specific pruning requirements. Please ask us for recommended practices.

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