



After Care Instructions

TREE & SHRUB PLANTING

Recently planted or transplanted trees and shrubs have special requirements. Until the plant adapts to the site and has a chance to develop new roots, it will be vulnerable to insects and disease along with abiotic problems such as wind.

Please read what applies to your situation and don't hesitate to call your arborist representative for assistance.

Watering

This watering guide is basic and meant to give you options that suit the site of each plant. For example, a very well drained sandy site needs the maximum dose of water recommended. Conversely, a normally wet area with slow drainage may only need the minimum recommended. During hot dry weather additional water is necessary while significant rain may mean eliminating a watering session that week.

- Water each tree the equivalent of one (1) gallon of water per inch diameter 3 to 5 times per week. This includes ornamentals such as lilacs, adding the diameters of each stem.
- Please water each shrub (such as a yew) one gallon of water per foot in height 2 to 4 times per week.
- You should stop watering deciduous trees after the leaves drop in the fall. Please continue to water evergreens until the ground freezes late into fall.

Stakes and Guys

There is research that suggests that staking and guying new trees is unnecessary and prevents root development. We agree and at times will not stake or guy a new tree or transplant. However, if your tree(s) has been staked or guyed, it is because the risk of falling over in the wind is greater than any benefit of not doing so.

- Please leave stakes/guys in place for at least one year and not more than two. Be sure to remove guys after two years to insure tree growth is not restricted. Please inspect the point of attachment to the tree and look for damaging chafing or abrasion. If this is not something easily remedied, please call us to solve the issue.
- If your trees are very large, the guys may need to stay longer. Ideally, the guys should be loosened on year two (they need to move in the wind) and removed year three.

Mulch

When we install trees and shrubs, we add a thin layer of mulch to the disturbed soil around the base of the plant, unless other arrangements were made (such as a ground cover). This should be maintained by weeding and sometimes with the addition of new mulch. It is important not to mound additional mulch around the stem of the tree or shrub.



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Trunk Protection

We will occasionally place a piece of hardware cloth around the base of a new tree to prevent small animal damage (such as moles, voles and mice). This may need to remain for many years until the bark develops and becomes thick. Be sure that as the tree grows the wire does not girdle the tree. Keep the area free of weeds and basal sprouts.

Insects and Disease

- As with us humans, stress makes woody plants vulnerable to disease (and insects). The sooner your tree or shrub acclimates and increases root mass, the less vulnerable it becomes. With this in mind consider:
- Asking your arborist representative for an *Integrated Pest Management* program. This may only be necessary for the first year or two.

Fertilization

When we plant new trees and shrubs, we will sometimes alter the existing soil as necessary. We try to avoid the potted plant effect by making a wide planting hole to encourage new roots and keep the soil very nearly the same as the native soil of the area. Evidence suggests that nitrogen-based fertilization of planted trees and shrubs may contribute to the increase of detrimental soil fungus. Our recommendations are:

- Refrain from fertilization the first year.
- After a year of establishment, fertilization can contribute to the healthy development of the plant.
- Call your arborist representative for a fertilization program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

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