

# Tree & Shrub Care Guide



A flourishing landscape begins with proper care upon planting. Here's your guide to caring for your newly planted trees and shrubs.

## Watering Newly Planted Trees

A tree can take 2 or more years to establish. Proper watering techniques will help to achieve the favorable conditions required for a healthy tree.

**We recommend following these guidelines for watering:**

**1st Month** – Water every day for 4 to 5 days and then gradually reduce the frequency of watering to every 5 days.

**2nd & 3rd Month** – Water every 7 to 14 days during dry weather.

**Until the Ground Freezes** – Once a month.

**The recommended way to water:**

Apply water to the root-ball and surrounding soil. You can do this by slowly running a garden hose at the base of the tree for 15 to 20 minutes.

- *The tree's root-ball must be kept moist for several weeks after planting.*
- *Trees may require more water if we are experiencing drought conditions or less water if we have regular, weekly rains of 1" or more.*
- *DO NOT rely on lawn sprinklers to water newly planted trees unless you have drip lines to the trees.*

## Watering Newly Planted Shrubs

**Weeks 1 to 2** – Daily.

**Weeks 3 to 12** – Every 2 to 3 days.

**Week 12 to Establishment** – Weekly

**Once Established** – Additional water is seldom necessary except when under drought conditions.

- *The amount of water needed for shrubs is around 1/3 of the volume of the container the shrub was purchased in.*

# Tree & Shrub Care Guide



## Overwatering

**Yes, it is possible to overwater your trees and shrubs.** Roots need oxygen to survive, and when the soil is over-watered and saturated, the roots can become damaged. This damage makes the water unavailable to them and causes the plant to wilt.

When this occurs, it becomes very tempting to give the plant additional water, which will only cause the plant more stress. This is why it is always important to check the soil to see if it is wet or dry when you are uncertain.

The best way to achieve this is to dig down a couple of inches to check the moisture level. You can also invest in a moisture meter which will tell you if your soil is wet or dry.

## Fertilizing

**Trees and shrubs should be fertilized in the late fall after the plant is dormant or in early spring.** Plants should NOT be fertilized from mid-summer to early fall as this could stimulate growth too late in the season and increase the risk of winter injury.

There are many types of formulations of fertilizer. When in doubt, use a complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10. Always follow the directions on the package for application rates and recommended ways to apply. As tempting as it may be to give the plant an extra dose of fertilizer to help it out – more isn't better. Too much fertilizer can damage the plant, making it susceptible to insects or could even kill your plant.

## Mulching

**Adding mulch around your plant is far more than just aesthetics.** A 3" layer of mulch can:

- Limit evaporation and keep the soil and roots moist.
- Protect the roots from extreme temperatures by keeping the soils cool in the summer and warm in the winter.
- Create an attractive appearance.
- Keep lawn equipment at a safe distance from the base of the plants.
- Helps to keep down weeds.
- Helps improve soil health as the organic mulch breaks down.

# Tree & Shrub Care Guide



## Watering Newly Installed Sod

Newly installed sod should be watered 1 or 2 times a day for the first 7 to 10 days.

Place a sprinkler to water approximately 15 to 20 minutes, or enough to moisten the sod and water the upper 1" of soil. With consistent watering, the sod will take an average of 10 days to root into the soil. You can reduce, but not eliminate, watering at this time.

- *If you have a sprinkler system, allow it to water through its regular cycle during the evening but supplement additional water with a sprinkler later in the day.*