



First Year Care for New Plantings

Newly planted trees and shrubs need extra care to become established with a healthy root system. The size of the plant and environmental conditions will determine how long it takes for the plant to acclimate to its new home. For trees, the caliper size can be used as a guide. For example: A 1" caliper tree will take approximately one year to become established. A 2" caliper tree may take two years. The larger the plant material, the longer you will need to provide supplemental care. During this acclimation period, plants will put much more energy into developing a root system than in producing top growth. A healthy root system is the key to your new plant's success. For large trees and shrubs, you should not expect to see much green growth the first year, depending on the variety. Larger specimens can take up to two years to begin producing top growth.

PLANTING TIME

The time of year you plant will affect how quickly your new plants become established. Hardy container trees and shrubs can be planted anytime of the year, even winter. Spring & Fall are the easiest times to establish new plantings. If you plant new trees and shrubs during the heat of the summer, be prepared to pay keen attention to the water needs of your new plants.

WATERING

All new trees and shrubs will require supplemental hand watering after planting for up to a year. Do not rely on your sprinkler system alone to provide adequate water to new plantings, especially in summer months. Use a hose to directly apply an ample sized puddle around the root-ball. Let the water absorb and then repeat. Water plants early in the morning. Do this approximately:

Winter: 1 time per week

Spring & Fall: 2 times per week

Summer: 3 times per week

You can also use **Gator Bags** or **Soaker Hoses** to provide a slow drip to the individual plants. Apply 2-inches of **Mulch** on top of the root ball to conserve moisture.

FERTILIZATION

Nitrogen fertilizers that encourage green growth are not required at planting time. A liquid Root Stimulator, however, is very important. Water in your new plants with a Root Stimulator, such as **Carl Pool Root Stimulator** or **Liquid Seaweed** with **Superthrive**, twice a month for the first 6-months. Plants that prefer acidic soil, such as dogwoods and Japanese maples, should also receive an application of a soil acidifier, such as **Dr. Iron**, at planting time. After the first year, use a general fertilizer, such as **NHG 6-3-0** or **Texas Tee**, each spring and fall.

PREVENTATIVE CARE

We are here to answer your questions and provide solutions. Should you notice a problem with your newly planted tree or shrub, please let us know right away. Bring us a leaf sample or close-up photo if you can. Many problems can be diagnosed by answering a few questions about growing conditions. Most stressed plants can make a full recovery if the problem is diagnosed early.