



**THANK YOU** for purchasing your plants from Grandma's Gardens. Here are our instructions to ensure your success!

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## **PLANTING AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR TREES AND SHRUBS**

**Please follow planting and maintenance tips carefully.**

**Location:** Before selecting a tree/shrub it is important to consider moisture requirements, light exposure, pH, and available space. Consult with our tree experts to find the plant that best suits your needs.

**When to plant:** Trees/shrubs can be planted anytime the soil can be worked, but it is important not to plant after a hard rain or during extreme drought.

**Preparation:** Before we begin to dig it is important to have utility lines marked. If Grandma's is doing the planting, we will provide flags for you to mark the desired locations of new plants, and we will contact Ohio Utilities Protection Service for you. However, if you are planting, please make sure to call O.U.P.S. at 1-800-362-2764. It is the customer's responsibility to make sure the irrigation and sprinkler heads are marked in the area of the new planting. O.U.P.S. does not mark privately installed electric or gas lines, such as lines leading to lamp posts or propane tanks. We are not responsible for damage to these lines unless they are clearly marked. Also, turn off these lines for our workers' safety before they are scheduled to come out. *Please note: Grandma's will not plant on top of an existing stump and we require that the new tree be placed a number of feet away from stump, depending on the new tree.*

**Planting:** Handle plants carefully, moving only by the root ball or container. Dig the hole 2-3 times wider than the root ball but only as deep as the height of the root ball at the "root flare", where the top roots grow out from the trunk. Locate the root flare before rolling the tree into the hole. Remove the top 1/3 of burlap and string, and pull away the top soil of root ball until the flare is exposed. If you have heavy clay soils it is advised that you plant the tree 1" higher to allow for better drainage. Once plant is placed in the hole, loosen top 1/3 of burlap and tuck down into sides. Leave bottom of the wire cage intact to preserve integrity of root ball, but cut cage from top of root ball. Remove any twine or rope from the top of root ball. With container plants, water before planting and gently loosen outer roots. If roots are tightly bound or wrapping around the soil ("girdling") be sure to loosen roots very well to encourage outward growth. Next, backfill the hole with equal parts existing soil and *Grandma's Planting Mix*. Add *Bio-tone Root Starter* to help promote new root growth. Consult with our experts to determine if your new tree/shrub requires *Grandma's Acidic Planting Mix*. Never add any soil on top of the root ball. After planting, water your tree with a slow trickle for up to an hour depending on how dry it is. If the soil has settled, add more water as needed, then apply a pre-emergent weed preventer and 2" of mulch on top of the root ball to retain moisture and to prevent weed growth and mower damage.

**Watering: IMPORTANT!** Customers bear the responsibility for proper watering of newly planted trees and shrubs. For the first two years you will need to water trees at least once a week for 45 minutes to 1 hour during spring/fall and twice a week during summer. Shrubs may only need to be watered for 15-30 minutes 2-3 times a week depending on the weather and rainfall. Plants generally require 1" of rainfall a week to survive, however some trees including the Birch require more frequent watering. It is important to focus on deep/ infrequent watering vs. shallow/frequent watering to help train roots to stretch down. This will help during droughts in later years. You also want to avoid overwatering as this can do as much damage as underwatering. Evergreens are especially susceptible to this as they dislike "wet feet", so be sure to allow a few days for the soil to dry out between waterings. Continue your water regimen until we receive the first hard frost (about the time you put hoses away) so your plants don't go into winter with dry roots. For years 3, 4 and 5, it may only be necessary to supplement watering once a week during summer or stretches without rain. We offer inexpensive moisture meters and gator bags that allow you to effectively monitor and water your trees.

**Staking:** Grandma's recommends staking trees to ensure they develop a good root system. Speak with one of our nursery consultants to discuss if and/or how your new planting should be staked. It is the responsibility of the customer to either stake the tree themselves, or have Grandma's stake when planting.

*Updated Sept 2013*