



Plant Care Fact Sheet

Planting

Container Plants: Once plant is removed from container, use a utility knife to cut a large "X" at the base of the root ball. Place plant in a hole 3-4" wider than container and **NO** deeper than plant ball. Leave ball approx. 1" above ground. Refill hole. **DO NOT** push soil against trunk. **Water immediately.**

Balled & Burlap Plants: Leave burlap and wire cage **ON** root ball. Place in a hole 6-7" wider than root ball and leave root ball 1-2" above soil. Refill hole. **DO NOT** push soil against trunk. Remove twine around trunk once plant is in ground. **Water immediately.**

Watering

Frequency of watering will depend on weather conditions and soil type. All newly planted trees and shrubs should be watered every 2-3 days (if it does not rain). Additional watering may be required during times of drought. Less frequent watering will be required in times of heavy rain or during cooler weather.

ALWAYS test soil prior to watering. To test, place finger 4" inches into soil. If the soil is dry or slightly damp - water. Well-drained soils require more frequent watering whereas clay soils retain more moisture.

Measuring Effectively

It is hard to measure how much water a plant is getting when using a hose. A better way to measure is by using a 2-gallon sprinkling can.

Below are examples of watering measurements:

- #3 Shrub: 2 gallons
- 6' Arborvitae: 4 gallons
- 2" Shade Tree: 8 gallons

Reminder

Landscape plants die from drowning far more frequently than any other cause. In the case of rain, adjust your watering schedule. Watch plants closely for signs of dryness or water-logging.

Exceptions

- Heavier, clay-filled soil will require less water than well-drained soils. Watch closely.
- Some varieties of plants require more water than others.
 - Birch, Willow, Hydrangea, Honey Locust, Dogwood, Ninebark, Potentilla, Spirea, etc.
 - Some varieties of plants require less water than others.
 - Spruce, Pine, Sugar Maple, Royal Red Maple, Greenspire Linden, etc.
- During very dry, hot, or windy periods, plants may require additional water and time. New plantings must be checked frequently. Established plants also benefit from watering during periods of drought.

If any problems occur, call us at (610)-391-1570 or the Penn State extension at (610)-391-9840.