



Backbone Valley Nursery

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Tree Care Instructions

Thank you for shopping at Backbone Valley Nursery. Here are a few tips to guide you in caring for your newly planted tree.

Watering:

The tree needs to be deeply watered at the time of planting. Two days after planting the tree needs to be deeply watered again. You can do this by turning on the hose and laying it inside the reservoir, four inches from the trunk, running it at a steady trickle for thirty minutes to an hour.

Sprinkler irrigation is not adequate for newly planted trees. Trees need to be deeply watered during their first year.

During hot weather, water "deeply" at least **every day. (90-100 degrees)**

During moderately hot weather, water at least **every other day. (80-90 degrees)**

During cooler/milder temperatures, water at least **twice a week. (50-80 degrees)**

Even during **winter**, trees need to be watered **at least once a week.**

Clay and other poorly draining soils may not require as much water as indicated above. Overwatering or trees staying too wet can be as damaging as trees being too dry. The best way to check for soil moisture is to dig down under the mulch 3 or 4 inches and feel if the soil is moist.

Do not use weed and feed type fertilizers in any areas nearby trees. These products can severely stunt or even kill your trees and is very detrimental to beneficial soil biology. This applies to both mature and young trees.

Fertilization:

At planting time, Agriform slow release fertilizer tablets may be used to help establish your tree and to provide nutrients for the first six months. Trees need to be fertilized each spring and fall with a balanced tree and shrub food.

We recommend an organic program for the longterm health of your trees. Compost may be spread around the drip line of trees at a rate of 1/8" - 1/4". This may be done in spring and fall. Liquid fertilizers such as fish and seaweed products or Hasta Gro may be applied quarterly. Be sure to water all fertilizers in well. A half pound of humate may be applied once a year around the drip line of trees.

Chemical fertilizers may be used if desired. Fertilize with one half pound of tree and shrub food per one caliper inch. This application should be spread uniformly around the entire dripline of the tree. Do not concentrate the fertilizer inside the mulch reservoir.

Mulching:

Annual reapplication of mulch is recommended. We recommend a shredded hardwood mulch. The use of "living mulch", which is mulch with 30% compost mixed in may be used.

We give no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the productiveness or life of nursery stock we sell and will not be responsible for result secured upon transplanting.