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WATERING AND FERTILIZING OF NURSERY STOCK

In order to maintain the health of your plants and provide the optimum growing conditions we recommend that you follow these care guidelines.

Watering: Generally, your new plant material will *NOT* require the amount of moisture most people think necessary. The most accurate method for checking water requirements is to pull mulch back from around the center of the plant, and pick up a small amount of soil. Squeeze the soil in your hand and attempt to make a ball. If the soil is sticky and muddy, the plant has excess moisture and needs to dry out further. Check again in a few days. If the soil does not stay together, the soil is dry and should be watered immediately. Lay a garden hose at the center of the plant and allow water to trickle on it for 5 to 10 minutes. The exception to this would be smaller 1 gallon shrubs. The root balls of these plants often dry out faster than the surrounding soil, and will need to be checked more frequently during the first few months. Whether your planting are evergreens or deciduous, plants will benefit from syringing, which consists of misting down the foliage of the plants. This cools the plant, which allows establishment with much less difficulty. It is important to avoid syringing so much that the ground becomes saturated around the plant. Syringing is most beneficial in the heat of summer when winds are blowing hard. If we have sufficient rains in between watering, generally a watering is skipped. However, if we go into a drought period, you will want to check plants every seven to ten days. All watering recommendations should be altered in relation to the weather we are experiencing, and whether you have a sprinkler system that waters the plants. All plant materials should be deep watered in late fall, just before we enter into winter. This includes established plants as well as newly planted material.

Fertilizing: Your tree, when planted, should be fertilized with root stimulator. No more fertilization through the first growing season should be given to the plant material. At the beginning of the next growing season, a good balance tree food should be applied to all evergreens, trees, and flowering shrubs. Fertilization of this type can be done through the growing season with benefits. Avoid fertilizing in late summer to early fall which encourages flushes of new growth that will not harden off before the first frost.