

Tree Care and Maintenance

It is recommended that you take some time in selecting the location of your tree, with due consideration for the spread (overall width) when it reaches its full size, as moving a tree after it is planted will greatly affect the health and lifespan of the tree.

Watering:

It is essential that regular watering is provided especially in the first season after tree planting. The following are good guidelines to keep in mind:

- A good rule of thumb in our dry climate is watering for ½ an hour, twice a week at a slow trickle. Dig down occasionally at the edge of the root ball about 8 inches deep to see if the soil is moist.
- Do not depend solely on lawn sprinklers for watering trees as it rarely gives enough water to penetrate the deep roots.
- Deep root watering by tool/probe is not recommended for the first 5 years as the pressure and amount of water may wash away from around the root of the tree and increase stress to the tree.

Pruning

- Pruning at the time of planting should be limited to removal of branches that have been broken or damaged.
- Avoid “heading” or tip-pruning the ends of the branches. These tips will produce leaves, which supply the essential energy for root regeneration.
- It is quite normal on most trees to have a little desiccation (loss of leaves) over the first year due to transplant shock.

Fall and Winter Care

- It is important that watering is continued to maintain sufficient moisture in the soil during the fall.
- Soak the soil thoroughly before winter (right before the first deep frost). The best method of soaking is by having a full hose open and soaking the area around the tree well for two to three hours.
- This soaking will form an ice cube effect around the roots that will keep your tree dormant during winter Chinooks.
- It is almost impossible to drown a tree after the leaves have fallen off.

Fertilizing Your New Tree

Fertilizing will replace the nutrients that your tree removes from the soil, providing the tree with the building blocks that it needs to stay healthy and grow well for its entire life. In addition, properly fertilizing and watering will enhance your plant’s resistance to disease and pests. Any time you apply fertilizer make sure to water it in really well. Water

on a slow trickle for about one to two hours will ensure that you do not burn your tree's roots when applying fertilizer.

Your new tree comes complete with its first fertilizing. Next year you will need to start following the fertilizing schedule below:

For deciduous and coniferous trees: (First three years)

- Fertilize with a 15-30-15 in the spring after the ground has thawed. Two applications approximately one month apart (1st application in late April and 2nd in mid-June).
- Fertilize again in the fall (end of September) with 15-30-15.

For established Trees (after 3 years)

- For deciduous trees: Beginning in April fertilize with an all-purpose fertilizer such as a 20-20-20. At the end of September fertilize again with a 20-20-20 fertilizer.
- For coniferous trees: Follow the same fertilizing schedule as for deciduous trees but use a 30-10-10 fertilizer in place of 20-20-20. For spruce, treatment with aluminium sulphate will help maintain the blue colour of the tree (blue or green spruce). Do not use aluminium sulphate on newly planted trees, wait about one year.

Enjoy your new tree!