

Winter Care

Proper winter care begins in the summer. Proper watering and fertilization in spring and summer is required. Watering can be decreased in early fall and increase in late fall to provide water needed to withstand the drying winds of winter. Plants need to go dormant; don't encourage late growth by heavy watering and nitrogen fertilization in early fall. Plants should be thoroughly watered in late fall just prior to the soil freezing.

Sunscald, characterized by sunken, dried, or cracked bark, is caused by the heating effect of the winter sun in cold weather. It usually occurs on the south or southwest side of the tree. In the fall, wrap young and thin-barked trees with commercial tree wrap from the bottom up to the first major branch. Remove the wrap in spring. Thin-barked species may require protection for several years.

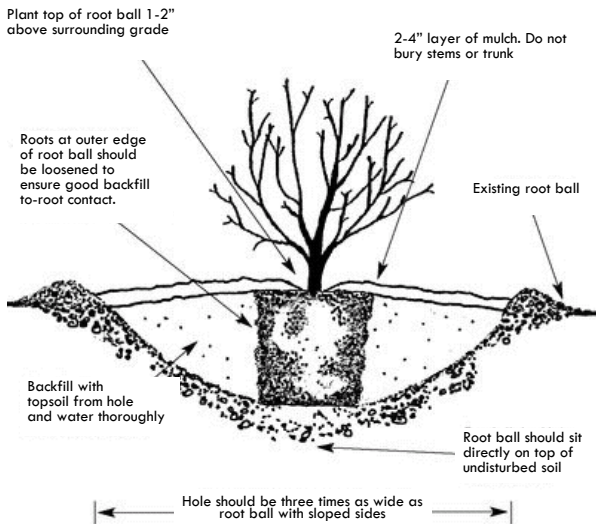


Diagram from Weston Nurseries Hopkinton, MA

Dear Customer,

Thank you for your recent purchase at McClish's Plants Plus! We appreciate you selecting us to help you find the newest addition to your landscape. We seek to provide superior products from leading suppliers in the nursery industry and provide them to you at economical prices.

It is our desire that this plant will fulfill your needs and continue to grow and flourish for years to come. We are proud of the products we offer, and if we had any reservations about the quality of plant material we would not sell the products. In order to provide quality stock and keep our prices competitive, we **do not offer any product warranties**. Once the product leaves our facility, it is your responsibility to properly plant, water and help acclimate your purchase to its new environment.

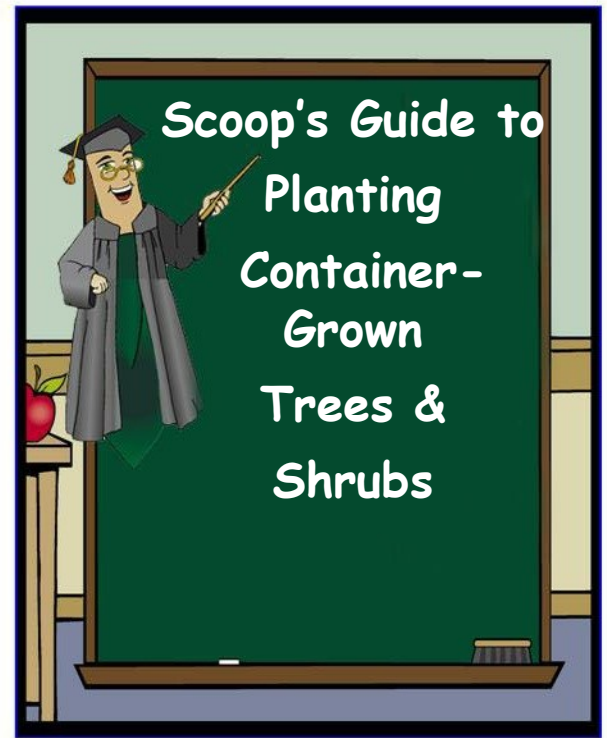
If you have questions related to the care and maintenance of your plant, we will gladly help you to the best of our ability. Also, consider visiting our website at www.mcclishs.com to find advice and links to help set you and your plant on the path to success!

We thank you for your business and look forward to serving you again.

~ McClish's Plants Plus Greenhouses.
LLC

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The Planting Hole

Successful planting starts with proper site preparation. Digging the hole for a new plant is the first step. The hole should be at least 1–2' wider than the size of the root system. A larger hole will allow better root growth, especially in poor soil. Roughen the sides of the hole with a shovel.

Planting depth is critical. For compacted clay soils or poorly drained soils, plants should be planted at, or slightly higher than, the depth that they grew in the nursery. This will improve oxygen availability to the roots. Allow for settling, especially if the hole has been dug deep and backfilled. Air pockets should be eliminated by watering during and after backfilling. Initially, the day of planting, trees should be heavily “watered in” using several gallons of water multiple times to insure the air pockets are eliminated between the root ball and the planting hole. Poor soils can be amended with organic material or loamy top soil depending on the improvement needed. Peat is not recommended for poorly drained, clayey soils, as it can act as a sump and draw too much water into the planting hole. Never completely backfill with a soil amendment; only create a transition zone to the existing soil where the roots must eventually grow. Too much soil amendment can create moisture gradients and cause roots to be confined to the planting hole. Remove rocks and debris from the hole and never put rocks or gravel in the bottom of the hole to improve drainage unless it is connected to a drain tile.

Container grown and containerized stock

Carefully remove the container at the planting site. Cutting the container may be necessary. Remove all containers. Container grown stock may be root bound. If roots are growing in a spiral around the soil ball, the plant is root bound. These roots need to be separated or they will eventually girdle the plant. Make vertical cuts on the sides of the ball just deep enough to cut the net or roots. Also, make a crisscross cut across the bottom of the ball. Don't plant evergreens later than October so the roots will have a chance to become established.

Watering

Newly planted plants require routine watering. Typically 5–7 gallons, applied to the root ball once a week, is an appropriate quantity of water to add to a newly planted tree or shrub; however, differing soil and weather conditions will affect the frequency with which water must be added. Examine the soil moisture 4–8" deep to determine the need for water. If the soil feels dry or just slightly damp, watering is needed. Soil type and drainage must also be considered. Well-drained, sandy soil will need more water, and more often than a clay soil that may hold too much water. A slow trickle of the garden hose at the base of the plant for several hours or until the soil is thoroughly soaked is the best method. Short, frequent watering should be avoided as this does not promote deep root growth but rather, the development of a shallow root system that is vulnerable to several environmental stresses.

Mulching

Adding a mulch around the base of the plant is a very important part of plant care that is often overlooked. By mulching plants, a more favorable environment is provided for the tree roots. A mulch allows better infiltration of water, holds soil moisture, limits weed growth, and discourages injury from lawnmowers and weed whips.

A 2–4" layer of mulch, spread to form a 3–6' diameter circle around the plant, should be applied. **Keep the mulch material from direct contact with the tree trunk.** Wood and bark chips are good mulching materials. A porous landscape fabric that allows gas and water exchange can be used as a broad leaven weed barrier underneath the chips. Plastic under mulch can cause roots to suffocate and is not recommended. Soil tests should be conducted before planting to determine possible nutrient deficiencies that the plant may face.

Fertilization

Fertilization of newly planted plants may be done every 2–3 years in the fall after leaves have fallen or in early spring before growth begins. It can be applied to the surface or placed in holes around the plants. Beware of burning turf if surface-applied. Surface application should be watered in. Do not apply nitrogen in late summer unless the plant is nutrient deficient, as this can promote new growth that may not harden off properly and can be damaged by winter weather. Phosphorous and potassium can be applied in the fall as they will enhance winter acclimation.

Pruning

Trees and shrubs generally do not need to be pruned immediately before or after planting as most nurseries prune out co-dominant leaders, limbs that rub against each other, and poorly angled branches, prior to sale. If these problems haven't been pruned in the nursery, remove them after planting. Some limbs may be damaged in the transit from the nursery to the planting site. Plants should be inspected and these limbs removed immediately after planting.

Staking

Ideally, most newly planted trees will do better without staking, especially smaller “whips”. Young trees standing alone with their tops free to move will develop stronger, more resilient trunks than those staked for several years. Trunk movement is required to develop strong, tapered trunk.

If however, a tree is in an area susceptible to high winds and could possibly be pushed over, then staking is required. A common problem with staking trees is the girdling effect that the ties can have on the tree. Soft nylon webbing or carpet strips attached by grommets to a stake can reduce this damage. Often, wire that is too tight around the trunk and will effectively girdle and kill the tree. Whatever materials is used, be sure to allow for some movement, and remove the stakes and ties as the tree develops a strong root system.