



## First-Year Care Guide

### Transplanting

Newly planted trees and shrubs need a lot of care to establish a root system. The size of the plant and the environment will determine how long it takes for the plant to become well-established in its new home. For trees, the pot size can be used as a guide. For example, a 5-7-gallon tree will take about one year to become established, while a 15-gallon tree may take about two years. The larger the plant, the longer you will need to take extra care.

During this time, plants will put more energy into establishing a root system than into producing new growth. A healthy root system is the number one priority for achieving your new plant's success. Larger trees can take up to three years to begin producing new growth.

### Time of Planting

The time of year you plant will have a significant effect on how fast your new plants become established. Hardy container trees and shrubs can be planted any time of the year, even in winter; however, spring and fall are the best times to establish plants, with fall being the most optimal. If you plant new trees and shrubs during the summer, make sure to water them significantly more than you would in any other season.

### Watering Requirements

All new trees and shrubs will require additional hand watering after planting for up to one year, and larger trees may need extra care for up to two years. Note that you must not solely rely on your sprinkler system, as most of that water will evaporate and will not deeply soak into the soil and root system, especially in the summer months. Use a hose to directly apply a puddle around the root ball. Let the water infiltrate, and then repeat. It is best to water plants early in the morning (around 6-7 a.m.).

Approximately:

- **Winter:** 1 time per week

- **Spring & Fall:** 2 times per week
- **Summer:** 3 times per week

You can also use soaker hoses, which we recommend, as this will help with root training. Irrigation bags can provide a slow drip to the plants, which is also helpful in remote locations where water is not readily available. Make sure 2-3 inches of mulch always covers the root ball area, spaced at least 1-2 inches away from any trunk or main branches, to retain moisture and protect the soil.

It is also important to note that soil type plays a major role in how frequently you should water. Please refer to the "Plants of Texas Suggested Watering Schedule for Newly Installed Trees/Shrubs" for more detailed information:

- **Sandy Loam Soil:** Water twice a week during hotter times of the year
- **Sandy Soil:** Water three times a week during hotter times of the year
- **Clay Soil:** Water once a week during hotter times of the year

### **Fertilization**

This will vary depending on the type of plant you have and its size; it is best to ask an employee this question. If you are curious about what we use and recommend for our transplants, check out our installation material list.

### **Customer Questions or Concerns**

We are here to answer any questions you have. If you notice any problems with your newly planted tree or shrub, let us know as soon as possible. Bring us leaves or branch samples, and text us with photos. Many problems can be diagnosed by answering a few questions about growing conditions. Most stressed plants can make a full recovery if the problem is diagnosed early.