

## WATERING TIPS

- Container grown plants tend to dry out quicker than balled and burlapped plants.
- Water trees and shrubs thoroughly (as needed) especially during summer months, drought, and late fall (before winter).
- Thunderstorms and blow-through showers provide some water, but should not be considered a substitute for deep watering. (Use a rain gauge!)
- It takes several years for plants to become established. Additional watering is needed during drought and dry spells through all these years.
- Plants growing close to or under large trees will dry out more quickly due to root competition for soil moisture.
- Wilted leaves can result from soils being too wet or too dry. Always feel the soil to determine which is happening before watering.
- Annuals, hanging baskets, potted plants, groundcovers, etc. may need to be watered daily or every other day in the summer. Water grabbing polymers like 'Soil Moist' can be added to the soil and help cut down the frequency of watering. (Can be used in containers or in the ground.)
- Feeding newly planted trees and shrubs is recommended right after planting. Use a water soluble or granular 'root stimulant' to help get those plants off to a great start. These can be used to feed for the first two years.

## STAKING NEWLY PLANTED TREES

Natural movement of a tree trunk by the wind actually stimulates root growth and increases trunk size more quickly than trees that are staked. BUT, there are situations where staking is required – extremely windy sites, planting larger container grown trees, bare root trees, or when the tree and root ball just doesn't feel sturdy after planting.

There are several methods to staking trees, including tree stake kits (three stakes, support rope or wire which is covered to protect the tree trunk), a single sturdy stake driven at an angle next to the tree trunk and secured with a figure 8 broad, smooth surfaced material, or using a single fence stake and commercially made tree trunk holder. Whichever is used, make sure the support system is secure and does not allow for any rubbing against the trunk.

Tree staking should remain no longer than one year (or less). During that time make sure ties used around the tree trunks are monitored for looseness, or adjusted to allow for increases in trunk diameter during the growing season. For more staking information, please ask our horticulturalists.

## NATORP'S PLANT GUARANTEE

Natorp's guarantees all of our plant material to be the best nursery stock available, true to name, up to grade, in a healthy growing condition, and to perform to your satisfaction, provided it receives proper planting and care.

*If your plant should fail to perform within one year from the original purchase date, we will replace the plant with another of the same type, provide an acceptable replacement plant of another type if desired, or provide you with a replacement credit. For plants purchased "on sale" at less than one-half the original retail price, a replacement credit will be given for the "sale" price.*

Naturally we cannot be responsible for plant damage or death due to conditions beyond our control (improper planting, over/under watering, plant neglect, plants in containers, insect/animal/disease problems, extreme weather conditions, or plants not hardy for our growing zone – annuals, tropical plants, tender bulbs, etc.) But you can rest assured that we will do our best to help guarantee your gardening success. Our goal is for you and your plants to be successful; we're here to advise you with proper plant care whenever needed. If at anytime you suspect a possible problem with any of our plants, please contact us as soon as possible. Our horticulturalists can help solve many plant performance issues early, ensuring that your plants will continue to perform to your expectations.

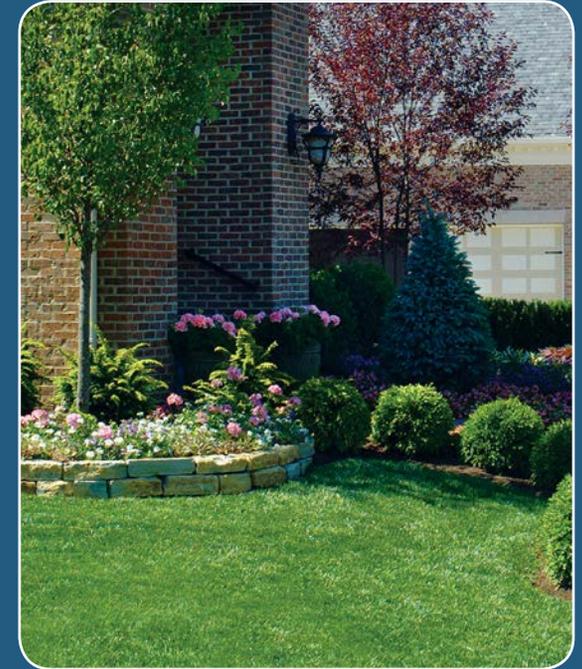
*Nursery Outlet Plant Replacements – If your guaranteed Nursery Outlet plant dies, we ask that you bring the dead plant back (shake off the soil around the roots) along with your Outlet receipt. For larger plants (unable to transport), bring in the receipt and a picture of the dead plant. Can't find a receipt, Outlet closed between seasons, or just not sure what to do? Contact one of our horticulturalists via telephone or email for advice or to make arrangements for plant replacement. We'll make sure everything is taken care of properly for you!*

Remember: If you have any questions about plants, products, gardening, whatever it may be, we're here to answer your questions year-round. Our goal is to make your gardening successful.

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# PLANTING AND WATERING GUIDE



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## NURSERY

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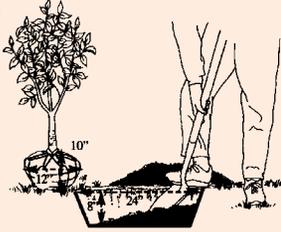
## PLANTING PROCEDURES

### DIGGING THE HOLE

Lay a tarp next to where you'll be digging for easier cleanup. Remove all sod from the planting area, then remove the soil from the hole and place it on the tarp. Dig the hole a minimum of 6" to 8" wider than the root ball on all sides, and slightly shallower than the root ball is deep.

Only dig as deep as needed; the ball should set on undisturbed soil to prevent settling. The top of the root ball should be slightly higher than original ground level (1" – 2" for smaller plants and

2" – 3" for larger plants and trees). Amend the soil from the hole with compost or "Pine Soil Conditioner," with a ratio of approximately 20-30% amendments to 70-80% original soil. Mix and chop together; this is the backfill used for planting.



### PLANTING CONTAINER-GROWN PLANTS

Remove the plant from its container; inspect the roots. (VERY IMPORTANT) If entangled or growing in a circle, massage the outer roots apart. If too tight, use a knife, sharp spade or pruners to loosen. This encourages the roots to grow out into the surrounding soil, as well as improving water penetration into the immediate root ball. Place the loosened root ball in the center of the hole; make sure the top of the root ball is slightly higher than ground level. Using the amended soil, begin filling in around the root ball, chopping and lightly



tamping as you proceed. When half filled, feel free to lightly water the added backfill. Continue filling until the backfilled soil level is at the shoulder of the root ball (not on top).

Cover the top layer with a light dressing of mulch.

### PLANTING BALLED-AND-BURLAPPED PLANTS

With the burlap (and sometimes wire basket) still on, place the plant in the hole with the root ball resting on firm ground; make sure the top of the root ball is slightly higher than ground level. (Measure BEFORE putting the plant in the hole.) Adjust the plant for proper facing and symmetry, adding a little backfill around the base to hold the plant in place. The wire basket and burlap may be removed, or may remain in place. Use bolt cutters and a sharp knife to remove the cage and burlap. Many times the top of the cage is removed and the rest left on the lower part of the ball. If they do remain in place, cut and remove twine used, cut slits in the burlap on top and sides of root ball; you may even cut and remove the burlap on top of the root ball to allow for better

water penetration. Over time, burlap does decay; the cage should not be an issue in root restriction. Partially backfill the hole, then step back to make sure the plant or tree trunk is straight. Continue backfilling with amended soil, chopping and lightly tamping. When half-filled, feel free to lightly water the added backfill. Then continue filling until the soil level reaches the shoulder of the root ball, but not on top.



### MULCHING NEW PLANTS

Once finished planting, place 1" to 3" of good quality mulch on top of the newly planted area, and on top of the root ball. Make sure the mulch is not against the trunk of the tree; the mulched area should resemble a donut around the plant. Your mulch helps keep roots cooler, suppresses weeds, helps maintain even soil moisture, and it looks good!



### WATERING NEWLY PLANTED PLANTS

Once finished planting, water your new plants thoroughly to ensure moisture in the immediate root ball and surrounding soil. Soak it. Then, come back and do it again the next day. Water slowly, deeply and thoroughly; do not be a 'water tease.' Smaller root balls may take 15-30 minutes where larger root balls may take up to 60 minutes. After the first two waterings, follow-up watering depends on the plant, the season, soil type, root ball size, and whether it's balled and burlapped or container grown, and can be a tricky thing to judge!

Generally, smaller root balls may require more frequent watering, as well as those grown in containers. Always check (physically and visually) before you water to make sure it's needed. Pull the mulch aside, look at the soil, as well as doing a feel and probe test to check moisture levels on both the root ball and the surrounding soil.

Do not over water your plants. You cannot over water them with a one time soaking (whether you watered for an hour or all day), but you can over water if you water too often and the soils stay consistently soaked and wet. The roots can't breathe; root rot sets in, the plant declines and eventually dies. That's why after the first three weeks of maintaining even soil moisture in the soils, we back off to watering deeply, allowing the soils to dry a bit (several days), and then watering deeply again. Keeping the soils constantly 'wet' for an extended period of time is not what you want to do and neither do your plants! Learn how long it takes

your soils to dry between watering. Too little water or too much water (drowning – sitting in water) will be fatal to your new plants. The same symptoms (wilting, browning of leaves, etc.) will exist for both conditions. If you're not sure, check with our horticulturalists.

### WATERING CONTAINER-GROWN PLANTS

The growing medium in a container is much different from the soils that surround the root ball. This difference makes watering container grown plants different than balled and burlapped plants. The container mix will dry out more quickly than the surrounding soils, so it's very important to water the immediate root ball first, soaking it thoroughly, and then water the surrounding soils. This is extremely important for container grown plants. We suggest keeping the immediate root ball of container plants evenly moist during the first three weeks after planting, which may require watering every three to four days, and then go to a good soaking every seven days for the first full season. Your goal (after the first three weeks of even moisture) is to soak the immediate root ball and surrounding soils thoroughly when you water, allow time for it to dry out and breathe, and then soak it again. In most of our soils, that takes about seven days for larger root balls and less time for the smaller ones. If the soil is not drying out but remains wet, back off the watering to allow more time to dry. Always check each time before you water.

### METHODS OF WATERING YOUR NEW PLANTS

The most common way to water is letting the garden hose trickle at the base of the plant, soaking the immediate root ball. How long the water trickles depends on the size of the root ball, soil types, container-grown or not, etc. Both stationary sprinklers on low pressure and soaker hoses work as well, but do make sure enough water is being applied to soak the root ball and surrounding soils.

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