

INSTALL/CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR TREES, SHRUBS & SOD

Step 1 Digging the Hole: Dig the hole twice as wide as the root ball or container that the plant is in. Make sure the hole is deep enough to leave approximately 1-2” of the root ball above the soil level. This will account for natural settling of the ground.

Step 2 Soil Preparation: Next, create a mixture of 1/3 existing soil, 1/3 new topsoil, and 1/3 mushroom compost and backfill around the plants. In a very waterlogged and clay filled hole, use 1/2 new soil and 1/2 mushroom compost. Then tamp the bottom of the hole to create a flat surface and center the root ball in the hole, remembering the planting height in Step 1. *Ensuring your plants are grown in good soil is extremely important for their success.*

Step 3 Installation: When planting a ball & burlap tree or shrub, DO NOT remove the string or wire basket. Always remove the plastic wrapping and cut pie shaped slices into the burlap at the top of the root ball. For container plants, cut the container from around the root ball and plant the entire soil mass in the hole. As you begin the backfill process step down the soil on the sides of the root ball to ensure good structure. Remember to cover the top of the root ball with the new soil mixture creating a slight mound. *AFTER 90 DAYS, REMOVE THE ROTTED STRING FROM AROUND THE BASE OF THE TREE.*

Step 4 Fertilizing & Mulching: Add Granular Tree & Shrub Fertilizer in each hole (*1/4th cup per shrub or 1/2 cup per tree-additional fertilizer information on reverse side*). The last step is to spread 1-2” of Hardwood Mulch on the top of each plant. Do not apply mulch around the main trunk or create a thick, volcano shaped mound as this will cause the plant to become overwatered. Mulch rings in the lawn should be at least 4’ in diameter to prevent injury from lawn mowers.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE WATERING INSTRUCTIONS BELOW TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF YOUR NEW PLANTS. PROPER WATERING, ADEQUATE FERTILIZER, AND QUALITY SOIL WILL ENSURE YOUR PLANTS ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THE LANDSCAPE. IN ADDITION, FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS WILL CAUSE ANY APPLICABLE WARRANTY TO BECOME VOID.

#1- Always water plants directly at the base, not on the leaves. Do not use rotary sprinklers on trees, shrubs & perennials. Always water plants/sod in the **morning** to prevent fungal growth. When watering new sod, use a watering wand with a “brush stroke” motion to completely saturate each section.

#2- Follow the watering chart below for the proper durations of each watering event. ***New plantings cannot handle deep waterings, therefore do not let the hose run for more than the specified times.*** Allow the plant rootball to dry before the next watering; skip watering after rain events of at least 1”.

****CHECK PLANTS EVERYDAY IN THE SUMMER! THEY MAY NEED IT TWICE A DAY WHEN ABOVE 85 DEGREES****

NOT SURE HOW LONG TO WATER A PLANT? USE THIS GENERAL RULE OF THUMB- WATER 10 SECONDS FOR EACH FOOT OF HEIGHT.

PLANT TYPE	DURATION	QUANTITY	SEASON
TREE	1-2 minutes	Every other day for 1.5 weeks after planting; Every 2-3 days for 2 more weeks; 3 times per week for rest of the year (1-2 times per week if established)	Spring
SHRUB PERENNIALS	20-30 seconds 10-15 seconds	Every other day for 1 week after planting; Every 2-3 days for 2 more weeks; 3 times per week for rest of the year (1-2 times per week if established)	
SOD	15-20 minutes	New Sod: 2-3 times per day (per zone) for 2 weeks; 1 time per day for 2-3 more weeks; 4-5 times per week for rest of the year; Existing Sod: requires atleast 1” of water per week	
TREE	1-2 minutes	EVERYDAY FOR 1 WEEK THEN FOLLOW SPRING	Summer
SHRUB	20-30 seconds	EVERYDAY FOR 1 WEEK THEN FOLLOW SPRING	
SOD	15-20 minutes	New Sod: 2 times per day (per zone); Existing Sod: 4-5 times per week	
TREE	1-2 minutes	Every other day for 1.5 weeks after planting; Every 2-3 days for 2 more weeks; 3 times per week for rest year (1-2 times per week if established)	Fall
SHRUB PERENNIALS	20-30 seconds 10-15 seconds	Every other day for 1 week after planting; Every 2-3 days for 2 more weeks; 3 times per week for rest of Fall (1-2 times per week if established)	
SOD	15-20 minutes	New Sod: 1-2 times per day (per zone); Existing Sod: 3-4 times per week	