



LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS
SUPERIOR GARDEN CENTER
SALT CREEK TREE FARMS

Proper Care of New Trees and Shrubs

Balled, Burlapped (BB) and Potted Plants

Your trees and shrubs have been planted with clean topsoil 1"-6" *above* normal ground level. The heavy clay soils found in our area do not allow for adequate drainage and hold nutrients preventing their release into the soil. Peat moss is not recommended alone for plantings because it takes too long to absorb moisture, is slow to dry out and has no organic matter or nutrients to stimulate plant growth.

Pests

Many trees are susceptible to pests in Missouri, and if caught early, most pose no real threat to the trees. Here are some general guidelines:

- Borers – Bore through the tree bark about half way up the trunk. Signs are tiny "drill" holes, peeling or chipping bark in that area, general tree decline. We have a product called **ACECAPS** at Superior Garden Center that is easier to use than spraying and safer to the environment. These are inexpensive and clean.
- Fungus – There are many types and causes of fungus on trees, shrubs, perennials and mulch. Most are harmless and don't need to be treated. However on sod, these funguses should be treated as soon as you see signs of trouble. We recommend Premier Lawn Care or Atkins Lawn Service.

Fertilizing

Fertilize only twice a year – once around March 1st and around September 1st. Any earlier or later runs too big of a risk of flushing growth that may get frozen or frosted. Use a general fertilizer such as **Fertilome Tree and Shrub food** (available at Superior Garden Center) and follow bag directions. This is simple and keeps your plants at optimal health.

Re-Mulching

New landscapes have been mulched with 3-4" of good fibrous mulch. Bark chips, rocks and gravel are not recommended. Fibrous mulch helps in preventing moisture loss, retards weed growth, helps maintain a constant temperature around the roots and encourages new roots to grow. Re-mulch every year to maintain the 3-4" depth. Usually this means only a new thin layer of mulch. This also brightens the look of your landscape. Mulch is available in bulk for pick up or delivery from SGC.

Weeding Landscape Beds

Rost Landscaping does not automatically use weed control fabric for several different reasons:

- If more plants are going to be planted, this presents problems getting to the soil.
- Light and air are not *maximized* to soil which is much healthier.
- Despite weed barrier, weeds still manage to sprout in mulch as it composts.
- Many times, plants will send out roots *above* weed barriers causing plant failure.

When you see weeds emerging, pull or spray with ROUNDUP before they establish large roots systems. After a rain is the best time to pull them since you will tend to get most or all of the root system out of the ground.