



LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS
SUPERIOR GARDEN CENTER
SALT CREEK TREE FARMS

Proper Care of New Trees and Shrubs

Watering

All new plant material requires routine watering. Adequate amounts of water are essential for new root growth. We recommend using **Root Stimulator** (following bottle instructions) with each watering for the first two months after planting (available at Superior Garden Center). The amount of water each individual tree or shrub requires will depend on the tree size and amount of weekly rainfall. Most B&B trees will require at least one 5 gallon bucket of water per 1" caliper, once a week, through the entire first growing season. Container shrubs and perennials will require at least one 1 gallon bucket of water each week also thru the first growing season. These amounts of water will vary depending on soil drainage, temperature and rain fall. Be sure trees and shrubs are planted in a location that has easy access to water. Superior Garden Center also carries **Tree Gators** (slow release watering bags) that will make sure the tree is getting enough water, water saturation is deep, and makes life easier on you.

Quick fact: Insects...Diseases...Weather. None of these are a leading cause of tree death. In fact, underwatering and overwatering are the top two reasons for plant deaths. Watering is extremely important in protecting your new tree.

Fertilizing

We recommend fertilizing your new trees, shrubs and perennials only twice a year: once in March and again in September. Any earlier or later runs the risk of causing a flush of new growth that may be hit by an early or late frost. For general landscapes we recommend **Fertilome Tree and Shrub Food** (following container instructions) available at SGC. It is very effective, but reasonably priced. However, we also carry many other products that are designed specifically for different varieties of trees and shrubs in order to increase their growth and success. Please visit us or call us for recommendations on which fertilizers you should be using.

Pests

Some trees are susceptible to pests in Missouri, however, if identified early most pose no real threat to the health of your tree. Some of the most common are:

- Borers - These caterpillar-like insects bore through primarily young trees, usually entering the trunk in the lower one foot of the tree. The damage presents itself as a hole in the bark which then starts to peel away from the trunk. Once damage from borers is visible very little can be done. Prevention in the form of bi-weekly spraying is best for borer control, but is not cost effective. Some years are worse than others for borers.
- Fungus - There are many types and causes of fungi infestation on plant material. Most types of fungi are harmless and don't need to be treated with chemicals. We carry a variety of disease, pest, and fungus control products so call us for recommendations at 573-442-9499.