

Summer Survival



Tips For Trees

By
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Here are some tips to help your newly planted trees cope with their first summer.

We plant a couple thousand trees per year and may lose less than five percent on an average. However, those customers who take an active interest in their investment (a living thing) and check their trees weekly have a good planting experience.

SURVIVAL TIPS:

- * Check the rootball of the tree for proper moisture. I've seen rootballs of trees be dry, especially container trees, while the soil adjacent was moist. Check down at least 3-4". Use a moisture meter if in doubt.
- * Container trees will use more water than balled and burlapped (B&B) since they have more roots in the rootball. Also, if the potting soil of the rootball is exposed to the air, it can dry out quicker than the adjacent soil. Mulch over it to prevent this.
- * In periods of strong winds, trees lose water rapidly. Give additional water during windy periods that last more than one day.
- * Remember our watering guidelines given out with

trees are "general" guidelines. Due to the many variables, weekly observations, or better yet, twice weekly, are best.

- * So who looks after the tree while you're on summer vacation? The dog or cat is taken care of, but sometimes that tree just died while people were out of town.
- * We carry "**Treegators**", those green bags that can be attached around the tree trunk and filled with water. These can be used to water and apply "**Superthrive**". Come by the nursery to see how they work.
- * "**Superthrive**" should be used at least once per month. Mix one cap-full per gallon of water and then one gallon of mixture per caliper inch of the trunk applied on the rootball. Use as often as weekly on stressed trees.
- * Spray "**Garrett Juice**" on the foliage and branches. This gives mild feeding of the foliage and increases stress hardiness. Mix and spray according to label directions.
- * Replenish mulch or compost around the rootball. However, don't get

excessive (over 3" of material) because you can reduce the amount of air to the rootball.

- * Check the tension of guy wires if the tree is staked. Untwist the wires at the stake, tighten and re-twist. Swaying too much causes new roots to sever and lengthens tree establishment.
- * Look for signs of stress or problems. If you see abnormal growth or have concerns, give us a call or come in with a sample. We will ask a lot of questions, so the better you know your tree and what it's doing, the better we can assist.
- * Change takes place slower in trees than say annuals or perennials. If you lose leaves from drought it takes three to four weeks to generate new ones. Be patient, the first year is to establish new roots.
- * We want every tree we plant to do well. Check on your tree weekly this first year and we are here to assist you. Take care this summer.