

TREE GUIDE

BY PONDEROSA TREE FARM



PLANTING A CONTAINERIZED TREE

PLANTING CONTAINERIZED SHADE TREES

- **CALL 811 (DIG SAFE) BEFORE DIGGING TO ENSURE YOU DO NOT HIT AN UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINE, SUCH AS ELECTRICITY, WATER, SEWER, ETC.**
- **DIG A HOLE ABOUT TWO INCHES WIDER THAN THE CONTAINER ITSELF.**
- **REMOVE THE CONTAINER FROM THE ROOT BALL.**
- **CUT THE ROOTS AROUND THE ROOT BALL VERTICALLY ABOUT EVERY INCH.**
- **SLICE A "TIC-TAC-TOE" PATTERN INTO THE BOTTOM OF THE ROOT BALL.**
- **USE A HANDSAW OR A SAWZALL IF A BOX CUTTER CANNOT CUT THROUGH LARGER ROOTS.**
- **HOLD THE TREE UPRIGHT AND STEADY IN THE CENTER OF THE HOLE.**
- **FILL THE SPACE AROUND THE ROOT BALL WITH DIRT.**
- **PACK THE DIRT FIRMLY BETWEEN THE ROOT BALL AND THE EDGE OF THE HOLE.**
- **ENSURE THE TREE CANNOT BE WIGGLED OR MOVED ONCE PLANTING IS COMPLETE.**
- **KEEP ALL ROOTS COMPLETELY COVERED WITH SOIL.**
- **AVOID LETTING THE DIRT RISE MORE THAN ONE INCH UP THE TRUNK TO ENSURE THE TREE GETS ENOUGH OXYGEN.**

PROTECTION AND STAKING

- **LEAVE THE TRUNK PROTECTOR ON TO PREVENT SNOW BURN AND SHIELD THE YOUNG BARK FROM ANIMAL DAMAGE.**
- **STAKE THE TREE TO KEEP IT SECURE WHILE IT ESTABLISHES.**
- **USE 2 T-POSTS FOR STANDARD CONTAINER TREES.**
- **INCREASE TO 3 STAKES IF THE TREE IS TALLER THAN 15'.**
- **DRIVE THE STAKES INTO THE GROUND JUST OUTSIDE THE DUG HOLE, ENSURING YOU DO NOT PIERCE THE ROOTS.**
- **THREAD THE STAKING WIRE THROUGH A TREE STRAP OR A PIECE OF OLD GARDEN HOSE TO PROTECT THE TRUNK.**
- **CHECK THE WIRES PERIODICALLY OVER THE RECOMMENDED TWO-YEAR STAKING PERIOD.**
- **ADJUST THEM SO THEY ARE NEITHER TOO TIGHT NOR TOO LOOSE, AND ENSURE THEY ARE NOT CUTTING INTO THE GROWING TRUNK.**

MULCHING AND WATERING

- **CREATE A RING OF MULCH AROUND THE PLANTING HOLE AS YOUR FINAL STEP.**
- **APPLY ONE BAG OF MULCH, WHICH IS THE PERFECT AMOUNT TO HELP A CONTAINERIZED TREE RETAIN MOISTURE.**
- **WATER THE TREE IMMEDIATELY AFTER PLANTING.**
- **MAINTAIN A CONSISTENT WATERING SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRST FEW YEARS WHILE THE ROOTS ESTABLISH.**

SEASONAL WATERING SCHEDULE

- **SPRING: WATER ONCE A WEEK.**
- **SUMMER: INCREASE TO 2-3 TIMES A WEEK AS TEMPERATURES RISE.**
- **FALL: REDUCE TO ONCE A WEEK, UNLESS THE WEATHER REMAINS UNUSUALLY WARM.**
- **WINTER: WATER 1-2 TIMES A MONTH, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL DURING DRY WINTERS WITH LOW RAINFALL OR LIGHT, DRY SNOW.**

PLANTING A BALL
& BURLAP TREE

PREPARING AND PLACING THE TREE

CALL 811 (DIG SAFE) BEFORE DIGGING TO ENSURE YOU DO NOT HIT AN UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINE, SUCH AS ELECTRICITY, WATER, OR SEWER.

- **SLASH ALL OF THE BURLAP OPEN WITH A KNIFE, MAKING AN "X" PATTERN INSIDE THE SQUARES OF THE WIRE CAGE.**
- **CUT ALL OF THE BURLAP AWAY FROM BOTH THE TOP AND THE BOTTOM OF THE ROOT BALL.**
- **LOWER THE TREE INTO THE HOLE USING HEAVY MACHINERY, SUCH AS A TRACTOR, FORKLIFT, OR SKID STEER.**
- **REMOVE ALL OF THE SISAL ROPE FROM THE TOP OF THE BALL.**
- **ENSURE NO ROPE OR DEBRIS ARE LEFT AROUND THE BASE OF THE TRUNK, WHILE KEEPING THE TRUNK PROTECTOR IN PLACE.**
- **HOLD THE TREE UPRIGHT AND STEADY IN THE CENTER OF THE HOLE.**
- **FILL THE SPACE AROUND THE ROOT BALL WITH DIRT.**
- **PACK THE DIRT FIRMLY BETWEEN THE ROOT BALL AND THE EDGE OF THE HOLE.**
- **ENSURE THE TREE CANNOT BE WIGGLED OR MOVED ONCE PLANTING IS COMPLETE.**
- **KEEP ALL ROOTS COMPLETELY COVERED WITH SOIL.**
- **AVOID LETTING THE DIRT RISE MORE THAN 1" UP THE TRUNK TO ENSURE THE TREE GETS ENOUGH OXYGEN.**

PROTECTION AND STAKING

- **LEAVE THE TRUNK PROTECTOR ON TO PREVENT SNOW BURN AND SHIELD THE YOUNG BARK FROM ANIMAL DAMAGE.**
- **STAKE THE TREE TO KEEP IT SECURE WHILE IT ESTABLISHES.**
- **USE 3-4 STAKES, WHICH IS USUALLY THE IDEAL AMOUNT FOR A BALL AND BURLAP TREE.**
- **DRIVE THE STAKES INTO THE GROUND JUST OUTSIDE THE DUG HOLE, ENSURING YOU DO NOT PIERCE THE ROOTS.**
- **THREAD THE STAKING WIRE THROUGH A TREE STRAP OR A PIECE OF OLD GARDEN HOSE TO PROTECT THE TRUNK.**
- **CHECK THE WIRES PERIODICALLY OVER THE RECOMMENDED TWO-YEAR STAKING PERIOD.**
- **ADJUST THEM SO THEY ARE NEITHER TOO TIGHT NOR TOO LOOSE, AND ENSURE THEY ARE NOT CUTTING INTO THE GROWING TRUNK.**
- **CREATE A RING OF MULCH AROUND THE PLANTING HOLE AS YOUR FINAL STEP.**
- **APPLY 1 ½ TO 2 BAGS OF MULCH, WHICH IS THE PERFECT AMOUNT TO HELP A BALL AND BURLAP TREE RETAIN MOISTURE.**
- **WATER THE TREE IMMEDIATELY AFTER PLANTING.**
- **MAINTAIN A CONSISTENT WATERING SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRST FEW YEARS WHILE THE ROOTS ESTABLISH.**

SEASONAL WATERING SCHEDULE

- **SPRING: WATER ONCE A WEEK.**
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TAKING CARE OF
YOUR TREES

SOIL MOISTURE CHECKING AND WATERING RECOMMENDATIONS

- **INSERT A METAL ROD INTO THE GROUND NEAR THE TREE, JUST OUTSIDE THE ROOT BALL, IF YOU ARE UNSURE WHETHER THE TREE IS BEING UNDERWATERED OR OVERWATERED.**
- **INSPECT THE ROD WHEN YOU PULL IT BACK UP TO CHECK THE SOIL CONDITION.**
- **IDENTIFY OVERWATERING IF THE ROD COMES UP COVERED IN SMOOTH, SLICK MUD.**
- **IDENTIFY PERFECT WATERING IF THE ROD COMES UP WITH CLOTTED, CLUMPY MUD.**

GENERAL WATERING SCHEDULE FOR EVERGREENS AND SHADE TREES FOR WESTERN KANSAS

(UNLESS GOD PROVIDES US WITH A HEARTY RAIN OR SNOW)

- **SPRING: WATER ONCE A WEEK.**
- **SUMMER: WATER 2 TO 3 TIMES PER WEEK.**
- **FALL: WATER 1 TIME PER WEEK, UNLESS THE WEATHER REMAINS UNUSUALLY WARM.**
- **WINTER: WATER 1 TO 2 TIMES A MONTH.**

WINDBREAK RECOMMENDATIONS

- **INSTALL A DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM FOR WINDBREAKS, SUCH AS EVERGREEN ROWS.**
- **ENSURE ALL TREES RECEIVE EQUAL, CONSISTENT WATERING ACROSS THE ENTIRE SYSTEM.**
- **KEEP GRASS, STICKERS, AND WEEDS AWAY FROM THE TREE.**
- **REFRESH THE MULCH TWICE A YEAR TO HELP CONTROL THIS AND MAINTAIN A CLEAN AREA AROUND THE BASE.**

CONTINUED TREE MAINTENANCE

- **TRIM YOUR TREE DURING THE FALL AFTER THE FIRST HARD FROST, WHICH IS THE BEST TIME FOR PRUNING.**
- **BROWN BRANCHES ON AN EVERGREEN OR SHADE TREE?**
- **CHECK FOR PHYSICAL DAMAGE**
- **INSPECT THE BROWN BRANCH TO SEE IF IT IS HANGING OR PHYSICALLY BROKEN.**
- **CONSIDER ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, AS HEAVY WINDS OR ANIMALS (SUCH AS BIRDS AND SQUIRRELS) CAN CLIMB OR SIT ON BRANCHES AND SNAP THEM.**
- **REVIEW THE HANDLING PROCESS, SINCE SHIPPING, TRANSPORTING, OR MOVING A TREE DURING THE PLANTING PHASE CAN ACCIDENTALLY CRACK OR BREAK BRANCHES.**
- **PRUNE AWAY ANY BROKEN OR HANGING BRANCHES TO HELP THE TREE HEAL.**
- **WHAT CAUSES HOLES IN A TREE TRUNK?**
- **BROKEN BRANCHES: A HOLE CAN FORM WHERE A TREE BRANCH SNAPPED OFF DURING A SEVERE STORM OR HIGH WINDS, LEAVING AN OPEN WOUND.**
- **SUNSCALD AND FROST CRACKS: WINTER SUN BLISTERING OCCURS WHEN INTENSE SUN REFLECTS OFF SNOW, RAPIDLY HEATING THE BARK DURING FREEZING TEMPERATURES. WHEN THE SUN DISAPPEARS, THE TEMPERATURE DROPS SUDDENLY, CAUSING THE TRUNK TO CRACK AND EVENTUALLY FORM AN OPEN HOLE OR CAVITY.**

TREE CARE

- **APPLY A WOUND DRESSING PRODUCT CALLED "TREEKOTE" TO FILL HOLES IN THE TRUNK OR BRANCHES.**
- **SMOOTH IT OUT EVENLY WITH THE SURROUNDING BARK AND ALLOW IT TO DRY COMPLETELY.**
- **FOR PESTS, SUCH AS SPIDER MITES (WEBS) WE RECOMMEND USING "SEVIN INSECTICIDE" APPLIED WITH A HOSE-END SPRAYER.**
- **FOR KEEPING ANIMALS AT BAY, WE RECOMMEND APPLYING "REPELS-ALL."**
- **IF A FUNGUS HAS TAKEN OVER YOU CAN USE "FERTI-LOME."**
- **USE A BALANCED TREE AND SHRUB FERTILIZER, SUCH AS AN 11-11-11 OR 12-12-12 BLEND.**
- **MEASURE THE TREE'S CALIPER SIZE, REMEMBERING THAT CALIPER REFERS DIRECTLY TO THE DIAMETER OF THE TREE TRUNK THIS WILL ENSURE YOU GET THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF FERTILIZER ON YOUR TREE.**

FOR ALL PRODUCTS, WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS ACCORDING TO THE PACKAGING.

WHEN IN DOUBT,
PLEASE CALL US AT
785-259-9010
THANK YOU!

