

Taking Care of Newly Planted Trees

First and foremost, all trees suffer a certain amount of “transplant shock” during the planting and establishment period. In Colorado, with good planting and watering techniques it takes approximately 1 year per caliper (diameter) inch for establishment. Keep in mind that trees & shrubs are living organisms and living organisms need care in order to reach their full potential. Taking care of your tree in its first few years will affect its health, shape, and strength for its entire life span.

Steps for Success:

- After the planting it’s time to **Water in the Tree**. Using water, verses stomping down the soil, allows for good soil-root contact without pushing out the oxygen needed in the soil for root development.
- **Wood Mulch** is highly recommended for newly planted trees. Wood mulch decreases soil compaction, allows for weed control, consistent soil moisture, provides a buffer from fluctuating temperatures and decreases damage from lawn mowers. Spread mulch to a diameter of at least 3’ and keep it at least 6” back from the trunk with a maximum depth of 3-4”.
- **Watering Guidelines**: Newly planted trees need 10 gallons of water per caliper (diameter) inch per week. The weekly water amount should be divided into 2-3 watering periods per week during the establishment period. Consistent moisture is essential and will allow for better root water absorption. Drought stress or over-watered trees are vulnerable to disease and insect infestations as well as branch die back.
- **Fertilizing** is not recommended for initial establishment. In general, established trees should be fertilized in late winter or early spring before growth begins with a slow-release Tree & Shrub fertilizer.
- **Pruning** should be limited to removing broken, crossing branches, or in establishing a main leader.
- **Tree Wrap** should be applied in November (think Thanksgiving) and removed in April (think Easter). Tree wrap helps to prevent sunscald in young or thin barked trees. Damage from sun scald provides opportunity for insect damage or fungal diseases.
- **Winter Watering** is a must! To see [Steps for Winter Success](#) turn over...
- **To Stake or Not To Stake, that is the question...** Research has shown that newly planted trees in general do not need to be staked. There are times when you should consider staking such as for protection, support, and to anchor in areas of high wind. Pine Lane Nursery does not include staking during planting unless requested by the customer.

Additional Information:

- During the establishment phase in a tree’s life cycle, primary growth occurs in the root system, with minimal growth in the canopy.
- Premature leaf change, leaf wilt, leaf drop, leaf burn and tip dieback are signs of watering problems.
- **When watering non-established trees, check the soil frequently, and water according to need.**



Pine Lane Nursery strives to source the highest quality nursery stock from trusted growers in order to carry healthy, viable, & lush plant material. We comply with Federal & State Agriculture Department regulations to ensure our plants are insect and disease free. Upon delivery, our staff works tirelessly to ensure the continued success of all plant life. While we make every effort to ensure the plants' success, we have no control over plant care once plants leave our nursery. It is imperative that you read through the plant care information supplied at time of purchase to ensure your plant's health and future success. Pine Lane Nursery is eager to support our customers; we are always happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the care of your new plants.

Warranty:

Trees, shrubs, junipers, and perennial grasses purchased at full price and **PLANTED by Pine Lane Nursery** will be warrantied for 1 year from the purchase date. If the plant fails within 1 year, credit in the amount of the purchase price of the plant will be given toward the re-purchase of a replacement at equal or greater value. Replacement plants are not warrantied. Absolutely no cash refunds. Services are not warrantied.

Trees, shrubs, junipers, and perennial grasses purchased at full retail price but **NOT PLANTED by Pine Lane Nursery** will be warrantied for 1 year from the purchased date. If the plant fails, credit in the amount of 50% of the purchase price of the plant will be given toward the re-purchase of a replacement at equal or greater value. Replacement plants are not warrantied. Absolutely no cash refunds.

Not Covered By Warranty:

- Perennial flowers, annuals, sod, houseplants, seeds, bulbs, cut Christmas Trees.
- Any plant planted in a container/planter or is kept in the nursery container.
- Services or Labor Fees.
- Owner neglect, vandalism, insect or animal damage, transplanting or acts of God.
- Items purchased at a discount greater than 10% and or Wholesale pricing.

Plants are living organisms and occasionally may show a variation in appearance (dieback, leaf drop, and/or early fall coloring) due to planting shock, drought, or other factors. In circumstances where the plant is capable of recovering, the plant will not be covered under the warranty policy.

Return Policy:

Any plant material returned to Pine Lane Nursery is subject to a restocking fee.

- Items purchased and returned having never left the nursery are subject to a 10% restocking fee after 3 days from purchase.
- Items that have left the nursery can only be returned with the approval/inspection of management and subject to a 20% restocking fee.
- Herbaceous plants must be returned within 24 hours to be inspected for acceptance. Woody plants must be returned within 72 hours to be inspected for acceptance.



Winter in Colorado is challenging for our landscape plants; with little precipitation, moisture stealing winds, and fluctuating temperatures plants can suffer root injuries resulting in die back and weakening of the plant. These injuries open up opportunities for insect and disease problems. Plants that are most susceptible to winter drought damage are new planted and non-established trees & shrubs. Following a good winter watering program will go a long way to maintaining healthy plants and turf through the spring and summer growing seasons!

Steps for Winter Success

Winter Mulching

- Apply mulch on exposed soil to help keep available moisture in and avoid evaporation
- Applying mulch will help prevent freezing and thawing of the soil surface that causes plants to heave above ground and dry out.

Winter Watering

- Water at least once a month-- twice if temperature & exposure require it.
- Water when there is no snow cover
- Water when soil and air temperatures are approximately 40F
- Apply water in the warmest part of the day between 10-2 PM
- Water enough to reach 6-12 inches down in clay soils.
- Water slowly and closer to the surface with a soaking type hose or slow trickle from the hose.
- If surface of the soil is cracked, water twice to help cracks swell and close for higher water retention.
- A good watering before you turn off your irrigation in the fall will be beneficial.
- Apply water more frequently to southern and western exposures