



*North Branch Nursery, Inc.*

Personalized Service, Rooted in Quality  
[www.NorthBranchNursery.com](http://www.NorthBranchNursery.com)

## LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE CARE

Your Christmas tree should not be kept inside your home for more than 7-10 days if possible. The longer the tree is kept inside, the less chance the tree has of surviving.

If it is very cold when the tree is purchased, place the tree in a garage or barn for a day or two before taking it into the house so that it is slowly acclimated to warmer temperatures.

Place the tree in a container and pack newspapers or straw around the root ball. Keep the ball moist but not saturated.

Keep the tree as far from heat registers, wood stoves, and other sources of heat, as possible.

We have had the most success with our live trees by placing them in an unheated garage after Christmas and leaving it there until spring. The tree should be watered once a week or so, depending on the temperature, and the ball should be insulated to keep it from freezing and thawing, which can kill the tree. The best time to plant the tree is late March or Early April.

If the tree must be planted immediately after Christmas, move it to a garage or barn again for a few days, then plant with care.

Leave the wire basket and burlap on the tree when planting and make sure the top of the root ball is level with or slightly higher than the surrounding soil. Once the tree has been planted, whether it is immediately after Christmas or in the early Spring, it should be watered, mulched and staked.

If you have any questions please give us a call, 419-287-4679.

Quality Plants & Service Since 1982

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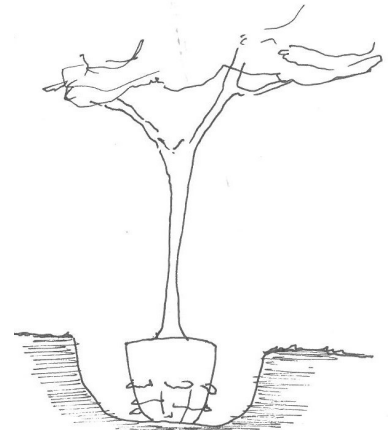
## Planting Instructions

### Container Material

1. Prepare a hole about 50% wider than the root ball. The depth should be the same as the depth of the root ball.
2. Cut away the container being sure to keep the root ball intact. Place the plant in the hole so that the top of the root ball is at ground level. Cut around the sides of the root ball to loosen the roots. This prevents circling and girdling roots.
3. Fill in soil around the root ball until 2/3 full; water thoroughly. After the soil settles, fill completely to the top of the root ball. Make sure that the soil is packed tightly so that there are no air pockets around the root ball. Leave a small depression around the plant to collect water.

### Balled & Burlap Material

1. Prepare a hole about 50% wider than the root ball. The depth should be the same as the root ball.
2. Place the plant in the hole so that the top of the root ball is at ground level for sandy soil, or slightly above for clay soil. Remove twine & pull burlap down on the root ball. Remove top 1/3-1/2 of the wire basket if there is one. **IMPORTANT**– only remove the burlap & wire after tree is in the hole.
3. Fill in soil around the root ball until 2/3 full; water thoroughly. After the soil settles, fill completely to the top of the root ball. Make sure that the soil is packed tightly so that there are no air pockets around the root ball. Leave a small depression around the plant to collect water.



### Mulching:

Spread an even layer of wood mulch around the base of the tree, no more than 3" deep after planting. This will help the soil retain moisture while your tree is establishing.

### Fertilizing:

A good multi-purpose, slow-release fertilizer will work for all plants. When planting new plants, we recommend a root stimulator to strengthen the root system.

### Spraying:

Examine your plants on regular intervals to determine whether or not an insect or disease problem is present. Treatment is most effective when begun early. At the first sign of insect or disease problems, contract our office, or your local Ohio extension agency. With proper instruction, you can control many of these problems yourself.

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## Watering Instructions

**We want your plants to succeed in your landscape and proper watering is key!**

It will take some time to learn your landscape's watering needs. Some plants need more water than others, and that can vary between the same type of plant based on where they are located. In hot, dry, windy weather you will need to increase the amount of watering.

There are a few signs to watch for when watering your landscape. Using the dig and check method, dig down 1-2" underneath the mulch and feel the soil. If the soil is wet, you don't need to water. You can also use a moisture meter to check if you need to water.

Drooping or yellowing leaves can indicate either too much or too little water. If the leaves are crunchy, they are too dry. If they are limp and squishy, they are too wet. Double check the soil with the dig and check method before watering. Also keep in mind that the surrounding soil around the plant should also be moist to encourage root growth.

## Watering Schedule

**Only water when soil is dry 1-2" under the surface. Water slowly and deeply**

Newly installed plants have higher water needs because their root systems have not grown out of the potting soil or root ball area and into the surrounding soil. Water at the base of the plants with the hose at a slow trickle. Perennials and small shrubs require a few minutes of watering at a time, larger shrubs and trees can require 30 minutes to an hour of watering at a slow trickle.

First Day – Water slowly and deeply after planting. If NBN installs your plants, the crews give them their first watering.

**Week 1 – Check daily**

**Week 2 – Check every 2 days**

**Week 3 – Check every 3 days**

Rest of season – Check once a week until the temperatures drop and the ground begins to freeze (at least Thanksgiving) Ongoing – Check your plants for watering needs the first two years after planting. If we experience extremely dry weather for an extended period of time you may need to supplement watering for plants installed within the last 3-5 years.

Soil type can affect your watering demands. After the first month you can expect:

Sandy Soil – at least twice a week.

Well-drained, loamy soil – once a week.

Heavy clay soil – Use dig and check method.

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## Watering Hints, Tips, & Tricks

Watering by hand is a great way to learn your plants and appreciate your landscape. Lawn sprinklers do not run long enough to thoroughly water trees and shrubs. A hose or water bag is the only way to water newly planted trees. To see how much water your irrigation is providing, place a small dish or cup near the plant and measure how much water they receive. Plants need an inch of rainfall per week.

If you travel a lot, don't have a lot of time to dedicate to watering, or would like a way to make sure you don't forget: use a timer and soaker hose. The timer can be set up to water the plants a couple times a week for a period of time. Check the plants the first time you water to make sure the plants at the end of the line are getting enough water. Also check them occasionally to make sure the system is still running properly. If you have mulch in your beds you may have to break up the crust to get the water through to the plants, or let it soak a little longer when watering.

Resuming watering is important in making sure your tree has its best chance at survival. When the ground thaws, or if we have a warm and dry winter, ensure that you check the soil around your tree for proper moisture. You will need to continue to monitor your tree for its water needs for at least the first year, or longer, after it was planted.



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