

Tree and Shrub Planting Guide

Before you begin, collect all your supplies and remember that successful planting starts with the hole. By taking a little extra time to do it right; and spending a few extra dollars on planting supplies, you'll help ensure the survival of your new plants. In addition to a shovel, you'll need:

- **MYKE® Tree and Shrub**
- **Cotton Burr Compost**
- **ferti • lome Start-N-Grow**
- **All Bark Cedar Mulch**
- **ferti • lome Root Stimulator**
- **Tree Stakes** (for larger trees)

1. Dig the hole two to three times as wide as the plant's container; even wider if possible. Dig the hole no deeper than necessary. **IT IS BEST TO PLANT HIGH** (especially in clay soils). Place the soil you've removed around the outer edges of the hole.

2. Remove the plant from the container. If **not** using **MYKE Tree & Shrub**, place the root ball directly in the hole and go to step 4.

3. If using **MYKE Tree & Shrub**, apply following the Application Chart and recommendations on the package. New roots must be in direct contact with MYKE so be sure to spread it all around the root ball (do not mix MYKE in with the soil from the hole).

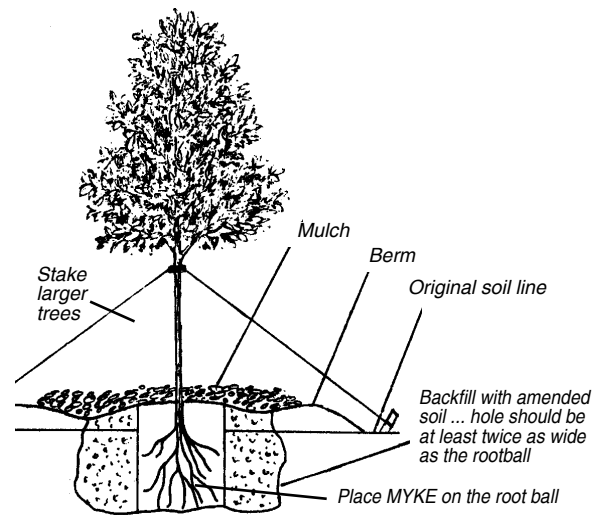
4. Amend the soil from the hole with **Cotton Burr Compost** and **Start-N-Grow** (18-6-12) at the rate of 2/3 existing soil and 1/3 Cotton Burr Compost plus the recommended amount of Start-N-Grow.

5. Fill the hole with the amended soil and tamp lightly around the root ball. Use excess soil to form a berm around the outer edge of the hole. Soak the berm with water and the recommended amount of **Root Stimulator** (4-10-3 plus B-1). **Repeated use of Root Stimulator during the first growing season is recommended.**

6. To conserve moisture, protect roots and reduce weeds, place **All Bark Cedar Mulch** around the base of your plants. **Mulch should be 3-4" deep, but should be kept away from the tree trunk.**

7. Use **tree stakes** for larger trees during the first year for protection from wind.

Pay special attention to watering for the first season. Newly planted trees and shrubs will require more water than existing plants, but take caution not to over water your plants, a common cause of plant failure.



REGULAR WARRANTY — When planted by Johnson's Garden Centers, trees and shrubs are warranted for replacement at 100% of the actual purchase price for ONE YEAR. When planted by the customer, trees and shrubs are warranted for replacement at 100% of the actual purchase price for SIX MONTHS.

REGULAR WARRANTY CONDITIONS: Sale items are warranted for replacement at the sale price. **Save your sales receipt just in case.** • If you have concerns about your plant, contact the store for an evaluation of the conditions and we will help you with a plan of care or replacement. • Trees and shrubs will be replaced just one time. • Trees and shrubs damaged by circumstances beyond our control will not be replaced. • Warranty does not apply to commercial customers. • No cash refunds.

5-YEAR MYKE WARRANTY — When planted with MYKE® TREE AND SHRUB, trees and shrubs are warranted for five years.

5-YEAR MYKE WARRANTY CONDITIONS: All Regular Warranty Conditions listed above also apply. (EXCEPTION—Valid only on trees and shrubs installed and/or purchased at regular price.) Valid only on trees and shrubs valued at \$200 or less. Trees over \$200 will be warranted for a **\$200 maximum value**. Replacement will be equal to the original purchase price of the plant (up to \$200), not taking into consideration its growth in size over the life of the warranty. Must be planted with MYKE® TREE AND SHRUB in accordance with the planting instructions received. **Customer must provide a sales receipt with proof of purchase of the plant and the MYKE.** Warranty does not apply to blueberries, rhododendrons, azaleas and roses. In the event a property is sold, the warranty is not transferable to the new homeowner. Trees and shrubs planted by Johnson's Garden Centers using MYKE® TREE AND SHRUB are warranted for replacement during the first year according to Johnson's Regular Warranty above. **After the first year, all labor charges for removal or planting are the responsibility of the customer.**

After-Planting Care for Trees and Shrubs

The following are guidelines about caring for your plants to help get them established. Adjustments may be necessary depending on your soil type, sun exposure, plant size, plant variety and the weather. Let us know if you have questions or concerns about your specific plants.

General Watering Information

Water is the single most important element as plants acclimate to their new surroundings. It's best to use a soaker hose, drip irrigation or a slow trickle from the garden hose to get water down to the depth of the root ball and all the way around the roots. Do not rely on your sprinkler system to provide all the water without checking first. Also, some plants get more water than they need because two or three different sprinkler heads are hitting them, especially trees planted in turf areas. Remember that roots need water AND oxygen, and if there is too much water the plants can actually drown. **Overwatering is a common (and often fatal) mistake, so water with care.** As a general rule, plants that are too wet will start looking yellow without wilting or dropping leaves. Plants that are too dry almost always have leaves that look wilted and eventually get a crispy appearance then drop off.

Water During the First 1-2 Months — Start by checking for moisture under the mulch at the base of the plant on a daily basis, especially during hot, windy weather. Once you have an idea how much water each plant requires, a visual inspection every few days should be adequate.

Soil type will affect your watering schedule because clay soil holds moisture longer than sandy loam. In general, during the spring and fall, water newly planted trees and shrubs every 3-4 days for sandy loam soil or every 4-5 days for clay soil. During hot, dry periods in the summer, water every 2-3 days for sandy loam or every 3-4 days for clay soil. Before watering, be sure to check the soil moisture by pushing your finger down into the soil a few inches.

Sometimes, newly planted broadleaf shrubs may defoliate during July and August. It is critical to continue watering these plants as stated above. As the weather cools in the fall, the plants will releaf.

Water During the Remainder of the First Growing Season — Starting with the third month and continuing through fall, water about once a week unless we are experiencing very hot temperatures. Then you may need to water twice a week. If the fall months are dry, make sure plants are watered thoroughly going into the winter. Then take advantage of warm days to water every couple of weeks if we continue to have little or no winter precipitation.

Fertilizer — We recommend planting with a slow-release fertilizer, such as **ferti • lome Start-N-Grow**, mixed into the backfill; and watering plants in with a starter solution of **ferti • lome Root Stimulator**. Reapply the Start-N-Grow every 3-4 months during the first growing season. Water with ferti • lome Root Stimulator every 1-2 weeks for the first month and then monthly for the remainder of the first growing season.

After the first growing season, YOUNG trees and shrubs should be fertilized three times a year (spring, summer and fall) with **ferti • lome Tree & Shrub Food**. It's easy to use, just apply it with a fertilizer spreader and water it in. It's scientifically formulated to move directly down through the soil to the plant's root system. Fine tree roots extend far beyond the drip line (the area under the branches), so apply Tree & Shrub Food well beyond that point. MATURING trees and shrubs should be fertilized twice a year (spring and fall). Fertilize ESTABLISHED trees and shrubs once a year in the fall.

Tree Stakes & Mulch — Larger trees should be staked to help keep them from shifting in the wind. Check trees periodically and if the cord starts cutting into the trunk, loosen as needed. Stakes may be removed within 6-12 months.

To conserve moisture and protect roots, maintain mulch at 3-4" deep around the base of your plants. Keep mulch away from the trunk and do not mulch over 4" deep as this can lead to root injury.

Tree Wrap — Newly planted, and thin-barked trees (especially maple), are most susceptible to sun scald. Wrapping the trunk with a commercial tree wrap or light-colored material will help prevent winter damage. **Put the wrap on in the fall and remove it in the spring** after the last frost. Young trees should be wrapped for at least two winters, or more until the bark is thicker.