

PLANT A TREE!

- **Trees are beautiful and practical.**
- **Trees produce life-giving oxygen and improve air-quality.**
- **Trees provide protection from sun and wind and beauty that changes with the seasons.**
- **Trees reduce noise and moderate temperatures.**
- **Trees reduce soil erosion, flooding, and water pollution.**
- **Trees provide wildlife habitat and food.**
- **Trees increase property values and cut utility costs significantly.**
- **Trees provide net financial benefits worth 2 to 3 times the cost of planting and caring for them over a 30-year period.**

PLANTING YOUR TREE!

Right now, your tree is 1-2 years old. Though your young tree has already survived the most fragile stages of its life, you should continue protecting it (especially in sub-freezing temperatures) for the next few years. We recommend starting your tree in a large container, which will give you flexibility should you need to move your tree into a protected area during periods of harsh

weather. First, remove your tree from its packaging, and check the water content of the root plug. If the root plug seems dry, water it generously.

Next, fill a 2-10 gallon container (or larger) with a high quality, well-draining potting soil. Dig out a hole for your seedling large and deep enough to contain your tree's roots with a few inches to spare on all sides. While you do not need to "spread" your tree's roots, it is very important that the root plug is straight (no "J-rooting"). Place the seedling's root plug straight into the hole you've prepared, and fill in soil snugly around the tree. Give your tree a big drink of water, and place it in a nice, sunny outdoor location.

HOW'S THE WEATHER?

If the weather in your region is severely hot or cold, you'll need to pay a little extra attention to your seedling – especially before it's well-established. Do not let your seedling burn during prolonged periods of extreme heat, nor freeze in harsh, cold weather. Generally speaking, your tree will prefer living outdoors, but in areas where long spans of sub-freezing or scorching hot temperatures are common, it may be necessary to protect your tree. Ample moisture and partial shading is all your tree really needs to survive the hottest of times. In frigid weather (below freezing), the most important thing is to keep your tree's container from freezing solid. Some exposure to cold weather is actually healthy for your tree, so if you move the tree to a covered location, it should be non-heated, such as a covered porch, or garage with a skylight or window. When the weather moderates, place the tree outdoors once again in a sunny location.

KEEP IT HAPPY!

Keeping your tree in good health is easy. Good sunlight & water are the keys. But don't over-water! Always

allow your tree's soil to dry-out between waterings. The wettest soil (deep down in the bottom of your container) should be just barely moist before any watering. Feeding your tree with a high-nitrogen fertilizer is recommended. Time-release fertilizers, such as Osmocote™, work well and are particularly easy to use.

A PERMANENT LOCATION

When your tree is a few feet tall, you may want to transplant it to a permanent location in the landscape. Early spring and early fall are especially good times for transplanting.

Choose a location well away from buildings, power lines, and other trees (at least 10 feet), and clear all vegetation from the planting site. Dig a hole big enough to take the roots of your tree with a small margin extra. The bottom of the hole should be dug out to allow 6" of good, loose soil or leaf-mould beneath the tree. A mixture of the surrounding soil, compost, and sand should be put around the spread roots, and gently firmed.

If your soil tends to be basic (alkaline), an occasional application of rhododendron-azalea plant food may help nourish the tree and condition the soil. Water your tree occasionally after transplanting and in the summer months, especially in particularly hot weather. As the tree ages and becomes established in its location, it will require less and less of your direct care.

