

# New Tree Care

Thank you for purchasing your new tree from **Dutch Mill Greenhouse**. To ensure that you enjoy it for a long time, please follow these care instructions:

## WATERING

**Water is probably the most important element in caring for new trees.**

Since a newly transplanted tree has not extended its roots into the existing soil, it is important that adequate moisture reaches the root ball. The amount of water needed depends on soil type and weather conditions (temperature, rainfall and wind).

Most well-drained soil requires one inch of water per week to establish and maintain good growth.

### When to Water:

During the first two weeks, deeply water young trees every day.

Then, water a new tree once a week for the first year, while it still has its leaves.

During hot, dry periods, water more frequently.

It is best to water in the evening, after the heat of the day has subsided.

### How to Water:

The root ball and the surrounding soil should be kept evenly moist to encourage healthy root growth.

After a few months, water in a wide band around the outer reaches of the tree's canopy, called the dripline.

## Pruning and Fertilizing:

Pruning after planting should be limited to removing damaged branches only.

Wait at least a year before removing any larger limbs or shaping the structure of the tree until the root system has a chance to reestablish.

Amend the soil with compost at the time of planting.

Wait two or three years before applying fertilizer.

## Mulching:

Apply a 3- to 4-inch layer of organic, composted mulch extending from the base of the plant out past the dripline.

Avoid letting the mulch rest against the trunk of the plant.

All plants benefit from mulch, because, as the mulch breaks down, it provides an excellent growing medium for roots, and acts as a slow release fertilizer.

Mulch will also help conserve moisture, moderate soil temperatures, eliminate weeds, and protect the trunk from mechanical injury, especially weeders and lawn mowers.