

THE PLANT KINGDOM GREENHOUSE & NURSERY, INC.  
620 FIDELER ROAD  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99712  
907-45-PLANT (907-457-5268)  
OPEN 10AM-7PM EVERYDAY OF THE SUMMER!

## THE TREE GUARANTEE

A question often raised is what sort of warranty we offer with the trees and shrubs that we sell. Our guarantee is our promise to purchase bare root nursery stock from a very reputable production nursery, choose varieties that are known to survive and grow in the Fairbanks area, and to care for them in a way that assures their healthy growth (i.e., not letting the roots dry out when potting, keeping them well watered, etc.) These are the aspects of a tree or shrub's potential longevity that we can guarantee.

Once the nursery stock leaves our nursery, its health and longevity are determined by the care given by its owner (as with any living thing) and environmental characteristics that may not be controllable.

Because there are many different microclimates even within a few miles of Fairbanks, there is a range of degrees of hardiness of the trees and shrubs that we sell simply based on whether their new home is in the hills or along the river. If you feel you live in an extra cold microclimate, choose a hardier shrub or tree or else have an open mind about experimenting, knowing that the experiment may or may not be successful.

Plan to fertilize your new planting with a balanced fertilizer (like a lawn fertilizer) at least twice during the growing season. Do this either by sprinkling the fertilizer on the ground or by drilling a tunnel toward the plant's roots and dribbling fertilizer down it. Keep your tree or shrub watered, especially at dry times like early spring and even through the fall until close to freeze-up. It is helpful to plant your tree or shrub so that it is slightly lower than the surrounding soil with a sort of moat or bowl-shaped depression to hold water until it sinks into the soil and the roots. We recommend digging a shallow hole (6" or less in depth) 3 to 5 times the diameter of the pot making it deep enough in the center to cover the tree or shrub to the root flare (where roots attach to the trunk). Spread the roots to the sides as much as possible and use a hose or bucket to pour water into the root area as you pack in soil. As you add soil and water, tap it in with the wooden end of your shovel. Using this method, staking is often not required. After planting, cover the excavated circle with shredded wood mulch. A woody perennial is not like a hanging basket full of flowers that will die quickly (and obviously) without sufficient water. A tree or shrub may suffer in silence through one growing season and its first winter, but by the end of a second season with insufficient water or fertilizer, it may not have the vigor to survive a second winter.

Even if we do our part and you do yours to ensure the survival of your new tree or shrub, there are other factors that can cause its demise. Lack of snow cover, extreme cold with minimal snow cover, an unusually early fall or late spring, snow plows and other vehicles, and browsing moose are all possible sources of damage or death for a woody perennial. These are risks of loss that you must be willing to take. They are probably nowhere near as great as the loss you will experience by never planting a tree or shrub simply because it might not live its full potential life.