



Robsler's Allendale Nursery & Florist

100 Franklin Turnpike, Allendale, NJ 07401

201-327-3156 FAX: 201-327-0663

www.robslers.com info@robslers.com

Tree & Shrub Aftercare

Assuming an appropriate site has been selected for your new planting, proper aftercare and maintenance are critical for the first year to ensure survival. Generally, young plants require thorough watering once or twice per week depending upon the season, the weather, and soil conditions of the planting site. Trees and shrubs will also have different requirements depending upon the species and/or varieties being planted. For example, conifers such as junipers require a drier soil than hydrangeas that need appreciable moisture during warmer weather conditions. Therefore, it is wise to group plants with similar cultural characteristics together. Visually check new plantings often and feel the soil several inches under the surface. Occasionally deep watering is much more beneficial than frequent superficial watering (often found on many sprinkler system settings).

Over watering can be just as detrimental to plants as it can lead to root rot problems caused by soil borne fungi. If a wilted plant does not perk up several hours after a deep soaking, do NOT keep watering it. Allow the soil to dry between waterings (this is especially true with Rhododendrons). During time of excess rain, make sure sprinklers are turned off. Here again, try to choose plantings sites that drain adequately after heavy rains. Because of the variety of soil types and variable weather conditions it is impossible to give hard and fast watering rules. Mulched plants will stay cool and moist far longer than non-mulched plants. A two (2) to three (3) inch layer of organic mulch is sufficient and will add beauty to the planting as well. Remember; do NOT pile mulch up against the trunk or stem of a tree or shrub (as in a mulch volcano). Mulch should be thin near the crown and thicker over the actual root zone area. The root flare or widening portion of the trunk next to the soil surface should be visually obvious after mulching.

Hot, dry weather and drought conditions call for extra vigilance. Smaller root balls will dry out faster than larger ones. Container plants tend to dry out faster than plants that have been grown in the ground (balled &



Robsler's Allendale Nursery & Florist

100 Franklin Turnpike, Allendale, NJ 07401

201-327-3156 FAX: 201-327-0663

www.rohslers.com info@rohslers.com

burlaped). When irrigating, it is very important to water larger trees and shrubs deeply enough to penetrate the dry, hardened soil. Unfortunately, we are under water restrictions frequently in our area. While this normally does not preclude hand watering of new plantings, once can get creative in providing water to transplants utilizing saved rain water or recycling cooking and bath water. Gator bags are a great way to efficiently water trees and large shrubs during drought. Here again, careful observation and diligence are key.

Be aware that early spring or late fall can also be dry in our region on occasions. Autumn plantings may not have their roots sufficiently established to handle a dry, snow-less winter or when soil is frozen for extended periods of time. Spraying on an anti-desiccant (i.e. Wilt-Proof) in late fall can prevent winter dehydration injury in broadleaf evergreens such holly and rhododendrons. Plants should be dormant and not in active growth when the anti-desiccant is applied.

Heavy fertilization is not recommended for new transplants. Using a slow release starter fertilizer such as Master Start, seaweed/fish emulsion, etc. will satisfy the initial fertilizer requirements for about six (6) weeks. After that, a monthly application of an all-purpose liquid formula (18-18-18 or similar) will provide the nutrients the plant needs to establish itself and thrive in the first critical year. Espoma granular products (Holly-tone, Plant-tone, and Tree-tone) may be used in subsequent years.