

QUALICO COMMUNITIES TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Welcome to the Neighbourhood! Qualico Communities is happy to provide all new residents with trees or shrubs for their yard. Enclosed is important information on the care and maintenance of new trees.

To ensure proper growth and survival, we recommend that homeowners read and follow the guidelines suggested in this document. It should be noted that for the first and second growing seasons, a tree or shrub will not exhibit much active growth as most of its energy is spent promoting new root systems and establishing itself in a new environment. This is a very important step to establish a plant that will thrive. A tree or shrub that is planted and not cared for will die. By caring properly for your tree, you will ensure its survival, and in return, it will enhance the landscape and your property value.



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BASIC TREE AND SHRUB CARE

It is possible to be a water wise gardener and still care properly for your newly planted trees and shrubs. New trees and shrubs should have moisture at all times. Never allow the rootball to dry out. Once the ground is dry 4" below the surface, it is time to water again. This is easily monitored by sticking your finger into the soil. If you go on holidays, saturate your new tree thoroughly before you leave or ask a neighbour to water it.

WATER WISE MAINTENANCE

After a tree is planted, it should be thoroughly saturated for the first two or three days to ensure moisture has perforated the root ball completely. For the remainder of the season, the new tree should be watered once a week, ensuring the rootball stays moist at all times. Allow water to trickle in the tree well slowly for a long period of time, rather than blasting it with water quickly, as this allows the water to sink lower around the rootball and thoroughly saturate it.

During the second growing season, the tree should be watered two to three times a month, depending on weather conditions, starting in May for most shrubs and deciduous trees and in April for evergreens. Around mid-August slowly begin to cut your watering time in half, but never let it dry out completely. This process is called "hardening off" and prepares the tree for winter.



WINTER CARE AND FROST DAMAGE PROTECTION

When leaves in the neighbourhood turn colour and start dropping, saturate the soil around your trees and continue keeping it moist until the temperature drops to freezing. Just before the ground freezes, it is advisable to thoroughly saturate the rootball with water so that it is solidly watered-in and ices when the ground is completely frozen; this will protect your tree from frost damage. During long Chinooks, trees may require additional watering to keep the rootball frozen and thus prevent damage to the tree.

Once the ground is frozen, it is a good idea to cover the top of the rootball with mulch, such as grass clippings, leaves, wood shavings, etc., for additional winter protection.

Plant material also requires winter protection from rodents, such as rabbits, who like to eat the tender bark of many tree species, resulting in death to the tree. Use a wire net set a little distance from the trunk or loose plastic tree-wrappers around the trunk to deter pests. Do not forget to adjust or remove as the tree grows to prevent choking the tree.

FERTILIZING

Proper plant nutrition and pest control will keep your trees and plants looking their best. Trees and shrubs require fertilizer to promote growth and resistance to disease and insects. Slow acting fertilizer can be applied up to the middle of July. Do not fertilize after July as plants need to begin the hardening off process for the coming winter.

MULCH

To capture rain and conserve water, form a saucer of bare soil around the base of shrubs and trees; do not expose any roots. Cover the bare soil in the saucer with 10 centimetres (4 inches) of organic mulch such as bark or wood chips to prevent evaporation. This allows moisture around the tree to be retained for longer periods of time, reducing evaporation and thus reducing the amount of water you use.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE BUDDING GARDENER

Select Water Wise Species

When designing a new garden or yard, consider water-wise trees and shrubs that require less water and maintenance. The City of Calgary and City of Airdrie websites provide lists of recommended species hardy to our area. Suggestions include:

Larger Trees

Deciduous

- American Elm (large yard)
- Birch Varieties (wet locations)
- Laurel Leaf Willow and Varieties (moist location)
- Bur Oak (slow growing)
- Columnar Aspen (moist protected site/good for small yards)
- Linden (protected site/high nutrients)

Conifers

- Scots Pine
- Swiss Stone Pine
- Bristlecone Pine
- Limber Pine
- Mountain Pine
- White Spruce (needs wet locations)
- Colorado Spruce
- Native/Siberian Larch (needs wet location)

Smaller Trees

- Trembling Aspens
- Ohio Buckeye (protected site/high nutrients)
- Schubert Chokecherry
- Mayday
- Hawthorn (don't plant with juniper)
- Sutherland Caragana
- Apples and Crabapple Species
- Pin Cherry (protected site)
- Amur Cherry (protected site)
- Mountain Ash
- Manchurian Ash
- Russian Olive (hot infertile sites)
- Amur Maple (protected site)

Shrubs

- Albert Thorn Honeysuckle
- Sweetberry Honeysuckle
- Blue Star Juniper
- Creeping Juniper
- Rocky Mountain Juniper
- Common Lilac
- Little Leaf Lilac
- Dwarf Blue Spruce
- Dwarf Pumila Spruce
- False Spirea
- Mugo Pine
- Nanking Cherry
- Nannyberry
- Saskatoons
- Silver Buffalo Berry
- Ninebark
- Potentilla
- Red Leaf Rose
- Siberian Saltbush
- Skunk Bush
- Wayfaring Tree

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WHEN TREE PLANTING

Decide what you want from your tree:

- Landscape feature
- Shade
- Ornamental flowers or fruit
- Privacy screening
- Attracting birds or butterflies to your yard

Requirements for best growth:

- Sunlight
- Water
- Soil quality (PH & nutrients)
- Competitiveness with other trees and plants

Size of Tree at Maturity:

- Proximity to buildings, other trees, sidewalks, etc.
- Obstacles overhead
- Interference with views
- Shading

Underground Consideration:

- Water and sewer line conflicts (Poplars, Willows & Birch)
- Large surface roots in lawns, patios, pathways, etc. (Poplars)
- Aggressive roots near waste and sewer services

Please, call before you dig!

Alberta 1st Call: 1-800-242-3447
alberta1call.com

COMMON PESTS AND DISEASES

There are many different pests or diseases that can infest Calgary and area's urban forest. Below is a list of the more common pests & diseases that can occur in trees in our area:

- Black Knot Fungus - large knots (abnormal growths) of bark that encircle the branch.
- Elm Scale - tiny crawling insects on leaves, twigs and branches.
- Ash Psyllid - small insects on tree leaves, resulting in curling leaves.
- Yellow-Headed Spruce Sawfly - caterpillar like insect on spruce needles.
- Aphids - small pear shaped insects that feed on plant sap.
- Fire Blight - a bacterial disease that browns and kills leaves, flowers and branches.
- Ash Leaf-Cone Roller - caterpillar/moth like insect that rolls tree leaves.
- Bronze Leaf Disease (BLD) – is new to the Calgary area and affects certain poplar and aspen trees.

Dutch Elm Disease (DED) is a fungus spread in elm trees by the elm bark beetle. Alberta is DED free and works diligently to stay that way.

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