

# CARING FOR CONTAINER TREES, SHRUBS & PLANTS

Container landscape plant material offers a wide selection of plant choices and sizes. Container plants are convenient for the homeowner to transport and plant. If the container plant material is not planted immediately after purchase, it needs to be properly cared for with adequate water and placed in a protected spot out of the wind and sun. Please remember, these are perishable items.

## Site Preparation

Dig a hole twice the width of the plant's pot, but no deeper than the depth of the pot. If the soil is heavy clay, then the excavated soil needs to be equally mixed with perlite and compost. (approximately 1/3 of each.) The perlite aids in drainage and prevents soil compaction. The compost enriches the clay soil and encourages earthworm activity.

## Planting Guidelines

If the plant is root bound (a lot of roots circulating around the inside of the pot), use a knife to slice vertically around the root ball. Loosen and spread out the roots, so that the new feeder roots can develop into the surrounding soil. Failure to do this will result in a very slow establishing or short-lived plant. Apply Myke Transplanter to the roots. This contains beneficial fungi called mycorrhizae, which allows the plant to better use fertilizers and water. Place the plant in the hole, always keeping the branches and stems above the soil and mulch. Back fill under & around the plant with the amended soil, lightly packing it down. Water the plant thoroughly and backfill with soil as needed with the air being pushed out by the water. Mulch around the roots with 2-4" of hardwood mulch, but keeping it a couple inches away from the

plant. Container landscape plant material offers a wide selection of plant choices and sizes. Container plants are convenient for the homeowner to transport and plant. If the container plant material is not planted immediately after purchase, it needs to be properly cared for with adequate water and placed in a protected spot out of the wind and sun. Please remember, these are perishable items. Water the plant with a mixture of Superthrive, a very concentrated vitamin/hormone that encourages fast development of fine feeder roots. These feeder roots allow the plant to pull moisture and nutrients from the soil.

## Watering Guidelines

Lanoha Nurseries container stock is planted in a very lightweight mix, that can dry out quickly and requires frequent watering. When you install these plants into your landscape, it is necessary to water directly underneath the plant. If you rely on a sprinkler system to water, the lush foliage will deflect the water onto the soil around the plant, leaving the plant's root ball completely dry. The best way to test moisture is to probe down into the root ball area with a long metal rod or screwdriver. If mud adheres, then the root ball is moist enough. If no soil adheres, or it is difficult to probe, then the plant needs moisture. The plant cannot pull water from the soil for several weeks after planting, so you must be sure the root ball is kept moist. The exceptions are yews which should dry thoroughly between deep infrequent watering.

