

So you have purchased a new plant for your garden or yard.... NOW WHAT

Location, location, location. Not all plants are the same. Like people each plant can be genetically different so not all plants like the same environments. So how do we determine where we put this new living thing in our yard.

1. Before coming to the nursery watch at different times of the day to see how much sun the spot gets.
2. What exposure will the plant have to tolerate? i.e. North, South, East, West
3. Was there a plant there before, have the roots been completely removed of the old tree?
4. What Kind of soil do you have?
5. Do you have irrigation?

These are important questions to answer when we are trying to help you choose your new plant.

What do all plants have in common?

1. All plants need some degree of sun light.
2. All plants need to be fed and watered.
3. All plants prefer well drained organic soil.

So what happens if we can't meet all of the above criteria?

Most plants like sun, the plants that will grow in the shade are what we call shade tolerant. Meaning they would prefer some sun but will thrive in more shady areas. If you have a really shady area you may be limited in plant choices, because not all plants are shade tolerant.

Food All plants need to eat. Just like you your plants need nutrition to assure they thrive. All plants like people have things that they like or dislike. Check with your sales person on your particular plant. While your plant is trying to establish, booster fertilizer or root stimulator is always a good idea, be sure to follow label directions.

Soil most importantly is the soil and watering regimen. Plants get some of the oxygen they need from the soil. If you have heavy hard panned soils the water will not drain well and water will fill air spaces and deprive the plant of oxygen. Think what happens to your feet when you stand in wet shoes or water? Your feet *shriveled*. When a plants tiny hair roots start to shrivel they fall off and that is why a plant will die if its over watered. Gee Farms recommends people error on the side of under watering rather than over watering. You can always add water but you can't take it away very easily. The large roots of a tree are not the roots that feed a plant its the tiny white fibrous roots that feed they can be very susceptible to over watering and soil conditions.

Clay If your soil isn't the most airy, you have options to beef it up or choose a plant that is more tolerant of the soil type. We recommend if you are planting a plant in hard clay soils you amend with a soil conditioner of some sort. After amending in clay you will want to raise your plant up a little to assure that the water will not pool in the bottom of the hole and cause root rot. Ask you salesperson what is best for your particular plant.

Sand is another soil issue. While plants with sufficient water will grow rather quickly in sand they will also dry out more quickly because of the porous structure of the soil. We recommend

using peat moss or some form of soil to mix with the sand. We realize it's not likely you can amend deep enough or wide enough for trees that get large we strive to give new plants a few good years in good soils to build a root system that will thrive in the soils that it will have to grow in for years to come.

Mulch our preferred mulch is wood. Wood helps to hold the moisture in the ground and protect the plant from the freezing in our northern climates. **Stone** we know why you use it and if you do we suggest using wood mulch on the ground around the base of the tree, under the stone. Stone will heat up in the summer and excessive heat is not ideal for root growth. This is why we see plant growth in the spring and in the fall when the soils have cooled down and the roots are not hiding from the heat.

Water there is NO real rule on watering. How much water your plant needs will depend on how much sun, what kind of soil, how much mulch, how much water has been used previously or has it rained, what has the temperature been? A good rule of thumb is that plants like to have moist well drained soil. Not WET soil. See below suggestions on soil types. These are not written in stone and depend on a lot of different factor.

Always soak your plant in well the first time you water it. This will assure the dirt is settled in around the roots and the plant is well hydrated.

Clay- Clay will hold moisture for long periods if allowed to soak in slow and fully penetrate to the bottom of the rootball. If your plant is mulched with wood and you have clay soil you will not water as much. Be sure the water soaks in and doesn't run down the sides.

Sand- Sand drains well and its almost impossible to over water. Mulch is very important for sandy soil as it helps hold the moisture in. When watering regularly with sand you will wash the nutrients out more quickly so regular feedings are very important.

Lastly if your plants leaves start to drop, role, burn or just don't look right please call immediately so we can help reverse any problems before they become irreversible . A plant will do all of the above if it is to dry or to wet. The symptoms above mean hair root death is happening to some degree and we need to determine if its to much or to little water. There are other things that could cause leaf change so please call us we will talk it thru with you.

Most People Kill their Plant with Kindness. **Very Rarely** do people loose plant from neglect and if they do may want to consider more plastic like forms of plants.

Please always remember plants are like people they are living, breathing organisms. Like people some times they will die and there is no smoking gun as to why. A plant can die sitting right next to the one just like it, it happens not often but it does happen. Remember they are like you and I and how can you live in the same house with all your siblings and be the only one who didn't get the flu? Same theory applies to plants.