



Tree and Shrub Warranty

Thank you for purchasing your new tree or shrub from Bowood Farms. To ensure the success of your tree or shrub, please follow the planting and care instructions listed below. If you observe any signs of trouble with your new planting, please contact us immediately so that we may help resolve any issues.

Bowood Farms warrants the health and survival of trees and shrubs that are planted in the ground for three (3) months from the date of purchase at full purchase price. Our warranty is limited to replacement of the plant or a store credit in the amount of the purchase price of the plant if a replacement is not available, but not a refund in the amount of the purchase price. Additional costs such as labor and delivery are not covered under the warranty. We recommend that customers follow the planting and care instruction listed below to ensure plant success. Bowood Farms' warranty does not cover the following:

- Trees or shrubs that are planted in containers
- Trees or shrubs that are sold at 50% off or more, these items are final sale
- Plant death due to substandard watering practices; both over and under-watering
- Evergreens that do not receive winter watering during dry winters
- Damage due to abnormal weather or extreme temperature including drought, long periods of below average temperatures, hail, wind, ice or other acts of nature
- Annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, tropical plants and houseplants

This warranty is void without a receipt or a record of the sale in your name in our database.

Tree and Shrub Planting Guide

Preparing the Hole:

- Dig the planting hole 2-3 times as wide as the tree or shrub's root-ball as this will encourage horizontal root growth.
- Dig the hole no deeper than the depth of the soil level in the nursery container. The planting hole should be dug so that the plant will be slightly above grade. The root flare should never be covered with soil or mulch.
- Do not plant when the soil is too wet. Digging heavy, wet soil will cause compaction, which prevents oxygen from reaching roots.

Preparing the Plant:

Directions are slightly different depending on whether you buy your tree or shrub in a container, or as a balled-and-burlapped plant.

CONTAINER PLANTS

- Remove plant carefully from its container. Refrain from pulling it out by the stem or trunk.
- Loosen any roots visible on the outside of the root-ball. If the roots have begun to circle and cannot be loosened with your hands, make several vertical cuts with a knife.
- Place plant in the hole, double checking that the hole is not deeper than the root-ball itself.

BALLED-AND-BURLAPPED PLANTS (B & B)

- Place plant directly in the hole, double checking that the hole is not deeper than the root-ball itself.
- Then remove any twine or wire holding the root-ball and cut away all the burlap covering

Planting Your Tree or Shrub

- Mix the existing soil taken out of the planting hole with an equal amount of high-quality compost such as *Dr. Earth Mother Land Compost* which is enriched with beneficial soil microbes and mycorrhizae. If you use another type of compost we recommend that you add *Espoma Bio-Tone 4-3-3* in order to have the root stimulating benefits of the mycorrhizae.
- Using this soil/compost mix, backfill all around the roots, filling up the hole halfway. Water in. Backfill with more of the mix, and water in again. Repeat this once more if necessary.
- Use the leftover soil/compost mix to make a ridge in a ring around the tree or shrub. This ring should start where the edge of the container was and stretch outwards. This is your plant's *well* – it will help keep the water directed toward the root zone when you water. Remember to always “Water in the Well!”
- Cover the well and beyond with a circle of hardwood mulch about 3”-4” deep that tapers to nothing as it approaches the tree or shrub. The immediate space around the trunk – about 4” – should remain completely free from mulch.

Care of Your Newly Planted Tree or Shrub

- Newly planted trees and shrubs generally need approximately 1” of water per week.
- In the absence of enough rain (1” or more), water thoroughly, deeply and directly in the well. Using a hose wand, saturate the soil for several minutes and then – walk away! Allow the soil to absorb the water, then *return and water again*. Continue until you see that the soil in the well is staying saturated.
- Using a bubbler or a soaker hose is an acceptable alternative, as long as you keep an eye on how much water is being absorbed.
- *Treegator* slow-release watering bags are also helpful but must be properly installed, maintained and monitored to drain correctly.
- Water about once a week. This is your responsibility for the first few years after planting until the roots begin to spread and establish. Give yourself a weekly schedule: choose a day to water. If your plant begins to wilt before a week has passed, shorten your schedule to one day short of the time that has elapsed.
- Use your common sense when adapting your schedule to changes in the weather and the season.
- Overwatering can cause problems too. Before you start to water, pull back the mulch – if the soil is wet, walk away.

...and Finally:

Here are four questions we will ask you:

- Did you loosen the roots?
- Was the root flare set at or above grade?
- What was your watering schedule?
- Did you water in the well?

