



***DON'T KILL
MY TREE
SURVIVAL GUIDE***

**A 2-Year Manual
for Planting Evergreens**

Congratulations!

You've just invested in a living legacy. Evergreens are tough, but their first 24 months in a new environment are their "toddler years"-they are needy, dramatic, and have zero survival instincts. Follow these rules to ensure your tree doesn't become expensive brown kindling.

THE PLANTING: HIGH, TIGHT, & NO DRAMA

- **The Hole:** Dig it 4-6" wider than the rootball on all sides. Give those new roots a "welcome mat" of loose soil to grow into.
- **The Depth:** The top of the rootball should be level with or slightly HIGHER than the surrounding ground.
- **The "Sinking" Warning:** Ohio clay is soft. If you plant it deep now, it will be underwater by next spring. Higher is always better.
- **Ditch the Stakes:** Unless you're on a 45-degree cliff, don't stake it. Instead, tamp the soil tight with your boots and a spud bar. Packing the dirt eliminates air pockets and teaches the tree to stand on its own two feet.

THE SAUNA OF DEATH: NO MATS OR TARPS

- **The Big Mistake:** NEVER cover the rootball with plastic, weed mats, or "breathable" landscape fabric.
- **The Science:** In July, these mats turn the ground into a dry sauna. They trap extreme heat and bake the roots while blocking water from soaking in. You are essentially shrink-wrapping your tree's coffin.
- **Mulch Like a Pro:** A light layer of mulch is fine, but never pile it against the trunk (No "Mulch Volcanoes"). Keep it thin over the rootball so the soil can actually breathe and stay cool.

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FOOD & WATER: RAIN IS A LIAR

Don't trust the clouds. A light July rain is a tease; it rarely reaches the roots. From May 15th to October 30th, YOU are the cloud. The "Finger Test" (Check 2–3x Per Week):

- Hard & Dusty? Your tree is screaming. Hit 'em good! Give them a long, deep soak.
- Damp & Soaking Fast? A light drink (3–7 gallons) is plenty.
- Soggy or Muddy? Back off. "Wet feet" will drown a tree faster than a drought will.
- The Snack: A light fertilizer is recommended, but don't overdo it! A 2-3-2 breakdown is the "Goldilocks" zone for root health. Ask us about our recommended 2-3-2 product available for sale!

THE WINTER WARNING (CRITICAL!)

Evergreens don't "sleep" like other trees; they stay awake and thirsty all winter long.

- The November Soak: The most important watering of the year is the one you give right before the ground freezes.
- Deer & Critters: To a hungry deer in February, your new tree is a Five-Star Steakhouse. If you have deer, use a repellent spray or a wire cage to protect your investment.



THE BOTTOM LINE CHECKLIST

1. Keep the rootball high. (If it looks a little "proud" of the ground, you did it right.)
2. Tamp it tight. (Boots and a spud bar = a stable, happy tree.)
3. Burn the weed mats. (Seriously, throw them away.)
4. Water until November. (Rain is a supplement, not a solution.)

*Stick to this for 2 years, and you'll have a tree for 200!
For questions or to purchase our recommended 2-3-2 fertilizer,
contact us today!*



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