



## PLANTING and CARE INSTRUCTIONS for TREES and SHRUBS

**THANK YOU for your purchase. These instructions will help to ensure your success.**

**Please follow planting and maintenance tips carefully and call or stop by with any questions.**

**Selection & Location of your Tree/Shrub:** Before selecting, it is important to consider moisture requirements, light exposure, pH, and available space. Consult with our tree experts to find the plant that best suits your needs.

**When to plant:** Any time the soil can be worked, but not after a hard rain or during extreme drought.

**Preparation:** Before digging, it is important to have utility lines marked if necessary. If Grandma's is planting, we will provide you with flags to mark locations of new plants, and we will contact Ohio Utilities Protection Service. OUPS will not mark lines if flags are not in place. It is the responsibility of the customer to make sure that irrigation and sprinkler heads are also marked. OUPS does not mark privately installed electric or gas lines, such as lines leading to lamp posts or propane tanks. Please turn off these lines for our workers' safety before they are scheduled to come out. We are not responsible for damage to these lines unless clearly marked. *Grandma's will not plant on top of an existing stump and we require that the new tree be placed a number of feet away from stump. Please ask our nursery expert for distance.*

**Planting:** Handle plants carefully, moving only by root ball or container. **Dig hole 2-3 times wider than root ball, but no deeper so the "root flare", where top lateral root grows out from trunk, will be at soil level or slightly above to allow for settling. If you have heavy clay soils it is advised that you plant 1" higher to allow for better drainage.** Locate root flare before rolling tree into hole. Loosen top of burlap and string and pull away top soil until root flare is exposed. Once plant is in hole, cut away top 1/3 of burlap and top of wire cage if present, but leave bottom intact to preserve integrity of root ball. Remove all twine or rope. With container plants, water before planting and gently loosen outer roots if they are tightly bound or wrapping around. This will encourage outward growth. Next, backfill hole with equal parts existing soil and *Grandma's Planting Mix* or *Acidic Mix* (ask which type to use for your tree/shrub). Also add *Bio-tone® Root Starter* to help promote new root growth. Never add any soil on top of root ball. After planting, water your tree with a slow trickle for up to an hour depending on how dry it is. If soil has settled add more around sides of root ball as needed. Apply a pre-emergent weed preventer and 2 to 3" of mulch, leaving 3" adjacent to trunk free of mulch. This will retain moisture, block weeds and prevent mower damage.

**Watering: SO IMPORTANT!** Plants generally require 1" of rainfall per week to survive. **How much and how often you need to water will vary.** Consider: **Soil** conditions, **Type** of plant, **Size** of root ball and **Location** of plant. But the biggest factor is **Weather**. Temperature, Daylight, Wind and Rainfall determine how much moisture stays in the soil. It is important to focus on deep/less frequent watering vs. shallow/frequent watering (as with sprinkler systems) to help train roots to stretch down. This will help during droughts, once plants are established. For the first week or so, check plants daily to help you see and feel how quickly plants are drying out and how the soil drains in certain locations. As a general rule, trees will need to be watered deeply (a trickling hose for up to an hour, depending on size of root ball) between 1 and 5 times per week for the first 2 years. Too much water can do as much or more damage than too little. Evergreens are especially tricky as they dislike "wet feet". Please see our special watering guide for evergreens.

**OUR EXCLUSIVE GUARANTEE INFORMATION IS ON PAGE 2.**

## GRANDMA'S TREE & SHRUB GUARANTEE INFORMATION

Grandma's Gardens will replace affected tree/shrub one time, at 100% of the price you paid after any discounts, provided you follow our planting instructions and bear responsibility for proper watering and maintenance. Trees are guaranteed for 2 years, whether we plant or you do. Shrubs are guaranteed for 2 years if we plant, 1 year if you do. Our guarantee does not cover damage to plants caused by an Act of God including drought, excessive rainfall, wind, hail or animal damage. We do not guarantee *Fruit trees, Perennials, Butterfly Bush, Caryopteris, Annuals, Vitex, Groundcover, Houseplants, Roses, Mums, Sod, Bulbs, Herbs or Tropical Plants*. Guarantee is non-transferable, does not apply to plants discounted more than 40% or purchased by contractors. Will not be honored without receipt.

### Responsibilities of Grandma's Gardens

**Do everything possible to purchase only the finest nursery stock** suitable to our Zone 5b climate and maintain our selection of plants so they are healthy when taken home by customer or delivered and/or planted by Grandma's.

**Advise you on plant selection and care** before your purchase, so that your new tree or shrub will thrive in the soil, light and drainage conditions available.

**Provide a Planting Guide for trees and shrubs**, with our most up to date tips for planting and/or maintenance.

**Home Inspections provided by experts** if your tree or shrub becomes stressed/diseased within guarantee period; we will recommend a solution to correct problems within our control.

*In the event that one of our experts inspects a tree or shrub and determines that a replacement is needed, provided the Planting Guide has been read and proper watering and maintenance practices have been followed, we will replace the affected plant one time. We may suggest a different variety of plant better suited to your landscape. If desired size or variety of plant is not available, a replacement credit may be issued for future use toward nursery stock.*

### Responsibilities of Customer

*Please do the following to maintain the health of your new plant, so that we can honor our guarantee in the unlikely event that your plant does not thrive.*

**Read thoroughly and follow our Planting and Care Instructions for Trees and Shrubs.** Many issues related to plant health and longevity can be resolved easily with proper planting techniques, adequate moisture and fertilization, and regular monitoring of plants.

**Purchase recommended products** to insure that your plants maintain their health and vigor.

**Inspect your plants regularly** for changes as they become established in your landscape.

**Adjust your watering, mulching or fertilization as necessary.** Plants stressed from too little or too much water are much more susceptible to damage by disease and insects.

**Don't hesitate to call us as soon as you see a potential problem develop.** Immediate attention will most likely result in a simple adjustment that will save your plant. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE! We will be happy to answer any questions you have over the phone or make a "house call" if necessary.

**Nursery Consultant** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Purchase** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please call us at 937-885-2740 if you have any questions about your new plantings.**