

POST PLANTING CARE

Technical information and practices when planting new trees



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Watering

Keep the root ball moist but not over-watered.



Monitor the moisture in the soil until the tree is established (roots are growing into the soil).

About 20 to 40 litres of water may be enough to moisten the roots of a 25 to 50-cm wide root ball.

Once the tree is established, the amount of water can be reduced.

Ensure to water the tree during hot, dry weather.

“Research shows that recently transplanted trees and shrubs establish quickest with light, frequent irrigation.”

Dr. Edward Gilman, University of Florida

Automatic Irrigation

Verify soil moisture especially during hot, dry weather.



Irrigation piping can become plugged or dislodged.
Newly planted trees and shrubs need additional water during hot, dry weather.

Mulching

On top of the soil, install a layer 5 to 10-cm thick of organic material.



The mulched area should continue 1 metre beyond the root ball.
The best mulches are made of correctly composted plant material.

No “Volcano” Mulching

Do not pile excess mulch on top of the root ball.



Thick layers of mulch can inhibit water flow and may encourage rodent damage. Keep mulch away from the trunk. The mulch free space should be at least 15-cm wide.

Pruning

After planting remove only dead or broken branches.



All branches are needed for photosynthesis until the roots are established. After planting, allow the tree to grow one full season before doing further pruning.

Staking

Stake trees only if they are unable to stand on their own.



Use two or three stakes placed equally around the *outside* of the root ball.

Use 5-cm wide, smooth material to hold the trunk loosely between the stakes.

The stake height should be one-third to two-thirds the total height of the tree.

Staking is temporary. Remove stakes once the root ball is more stable. This should be done after one growing season.

Fertilization

After planting, avoid fertilization unless the soil is nutrient deficient.



Slow-release or organic based fertilizers are better for young trees.
If nutrients are added, use a low or modest application rate.

Trunk Protection

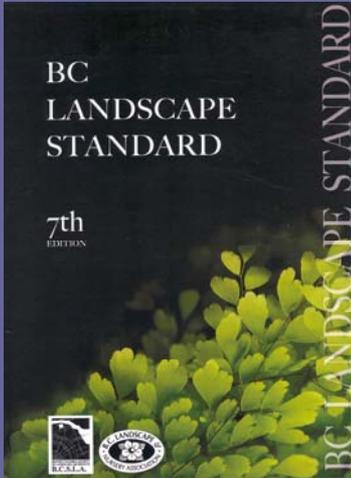
Wrapping the stem of a young tree after planting is usually not required.



Materials may be used to prevent damage from rodents and winter sunscald.
Remove the trunk protector at the onset of warm spring weather.

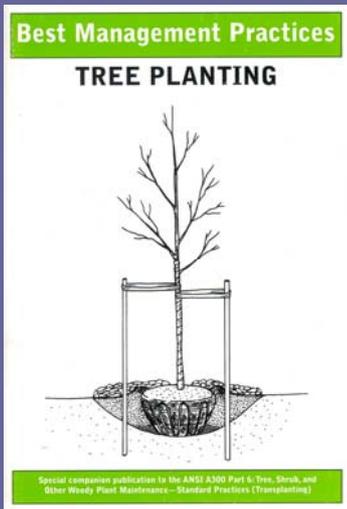
Industry Standards

Care after planting



“Adjustments should be made to sprinkler coverage and timing to ensure that all areas receive adequate water to supplement natural rainfall, without over-watering or creating excess runoff.”

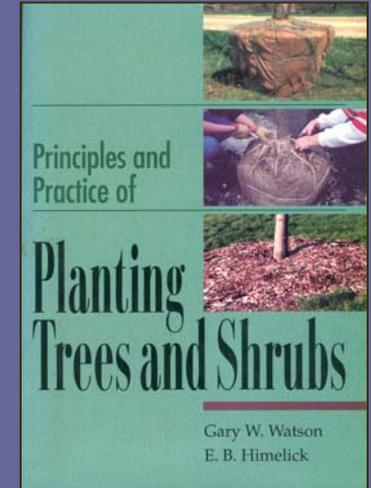
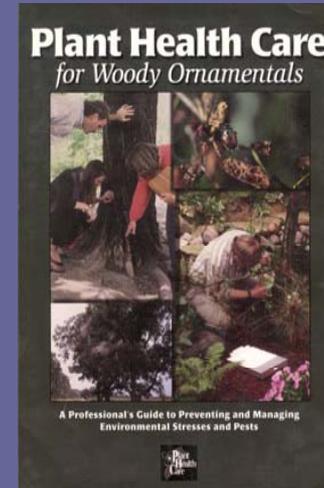
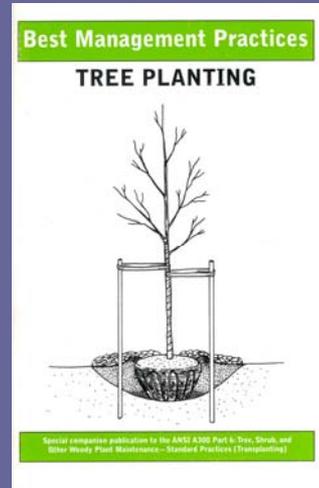
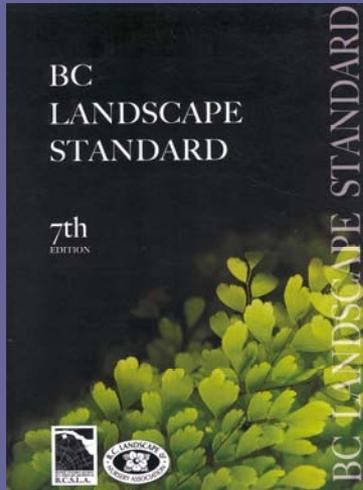
*The British Columbia Landscape Standard (2008)
British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects &
and British Columbia Landscape & Nursery Association*



“Drought stress limits the growth of newly planted trees more than any other factor.
Until the root system can grow and absorb more water,
adding fertilizer to the soil is likely to be ineffective.

*Best Management Practices Tree Planting (2005)
International Society of Arboriculture*

For more details, consult these publications



Available from BCLNA
(B.C. Landscape and Nursery Association)
<http://bclna.com/bc-landscape-standards/>

Available from ISA
(International Society of Arboriculture)
<http://secure.isa-arbor.com/webstore/>

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