

PLANTING YOUR GIFT TREE-POTTING INSTRUCTIONS

Select a pot that is slightly larger than the root system in width and depth. For Gift Trees, a one gallon pot that is a minimum of 6-7" deep is sufficient. Containers of the wrong size can contribute to both under and over watering. Select a pot with multiple drainage holes. Use a nursery blend planting mix recommended for trees and shrubs. Garden soils or commercial top soils are too heavy when used alone; organic material or peat moss should be mixed in. You may pot in peat moss only but plan to fertilize every two weeks rather than every month.

Transplant your seedling outside as soon as weather permits. Your seedling should not remain in the pot longer than one year.

Many commercial soil-less potting mixes contain a slow release fertilizer such as Miracle-Gro. No fertilizer is needed for the first year with this type of potting mix. If the commercial soil-less mixture doesn't contain fertilizer, you will need to apply a water-soluble slow release fertilizer once a month. Use fertilizer at ½ the concentration recommended for house plants. Don't over fertilize.

Gift Trees should be planted with the top of the peat moss plug even with the soil line. When transplanting outside plant so the top of "root flare" (base of the trunk that widens into roots) is level with the soil line. Planting too deeply causes major problems for trees.

Give the soil a thorough soaking after planting. Water deeply whenever the soil is slightly dry to the touch. Avoid short, frequent watering since it normally does not penetrate deep enough and encourages root growth too near the surface.

After planting outside, place mulch around the tree to maintain soil temperature and moisture. Mulch should not touch the trunk. Containers can be brought inside in the winter and placed in a cool area. If you prefer, you can sink the pots in the ground and mulch well for the winter. Roots of trees growing in exposed pots are subject to temperatures that are colder than they normally would encounter in the soil. These colder than normal temperatures along with normal winter freeze/thaw cycles can damage roots. If your pot is above ground you can use snow to insulate the tree by burying the pot in the snow or mulch. Be sure that the pot stays covered the entire winter. The snow or mulch acts as an insulating layer around the pot.

For additional help in potting and successfully growing your trees consult your cooperative extension office, an arborist, or garden center in your area. You may also contact the Arbor Day Foundation at www.arboday.org or toll-free at 888-448-7337.

"He that plants trees loves others beside himself."

Thomas Fuller