

## Water, Water

1. Root-zone watering: All plants prefer to be watered at the root zone, slowly & deeply. To do this, lay the open end of a hose at the base of each plant & allow a stream of water to flow at a rate the size of a pencil.
2. For larger trees & shrubs, apply 1-2 hours of root-zone watering several times each week through the first growing season in which it was planted.
3. A soaking rainfall of 1 ½" counts as one watering.

*Note: These directions are general guidelines and may need to be adjusted according to soil temperature, humidity, sun & wind exposure, and seasonal or drought conditions.*

**Tip:** A rain gauge is a handy tool to monitor rainfall and keep watering on track. Watering wands, hoses, soaker hoses, tree gators and sprinklers help make watering easier, but be careful, it's best not to use sprinklers or soaker hoses for the first year as they tend to over or under water new plants.

**Watering Schedule** [to track & monitor weekly watering each season]:

	Week	Spring	Late Spring/ Early Summer	Summer	Fall
Container Plants	1	water 4x	water 6x	water 6x	water 3x
	2	water 4x	water 5x	water 6x	water 3x
	3	water 3x	water 4x	water 5x	water 1x
	4	water 3x	water 4x	water 5x	water 1x
	5	water 2x	water 3x	water 3x	water 1x
	6	water 1x	water 2x	water 2x	water 1x
Balled & Burlapped	1	water 3x	water 4x	water 5x	water 2x
	2	water 2x	water 3x	water 4x	water 2x
	3	water 2x	water 3x	water 4x	water 1x
	4	water 1x	water 2x	water 3x	water 1x
	5	water 1x	water 1x	water 2x	water 1x
	6	water 1x	water 1x	water 1x	water 1x

After the sixth week, plants need to be monitored and watered accordingly. Water every 10-14 days when rainfall is less than 1".

## The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly

### Mulching

Maintaining a 2" natural mulch layer on beds reduces weeds, maintains moisture & protects plants. "Top-dress" as needed but don't allow mulch to build up on plant stems or trunks and avoid mulching with rock, color-dyed or rubber mulches that don't improve soil integrity.

### Weed Control

Weeds compete with the plants we love. Remove existing weeds manually on a regular basis. You may apply a granular pre-emergent herbicide to mulched beds every 60-90 days of the growing season. Visit our garden center for specific information & organic and conventional products.

## Be Proactive

### Troubleshooting Diagnostic Services

We're here to ensure your landscaping and gardening success. As a service to our customers, we want to help you prevent problems and when necessary, identify and diagnose issues. Examine plants regularly and note changes (i.e. discoloration, spots, visible pests, or loss of leaves). Contact us immediately with questions or concerns so that we can help you help your plant.

Any plant which has failed to survive should be returned within 30 days. Any period of time beyond this makes it difficult or impossible for us to assess the cause and does not allow us to prevent the problem from recurring. Do not dig up and return plant material until we are sure it is no longer viable at all. Certain plants may take longer to emerge in spring or recover from trauma. We do not replace plants that are still living.

You **must have proof of purchase and return the plant** to receive credit. This is a purchase value credit and a one-time replacement credit only. Allowing us to record your contact details at the time of purchase will help ensure we can find the details of your transaction. Plants will be replaced with the same size or value of original installed materials if possible. We do not issue cash refunds.

## Plant Guarantee

Trees and shrubs installed following proper planting guidelines, including the use of soil conditioner and fertilizer tablets, and watered and cared for properly are guaranteed for 1 year from the date of purchase.

**Roses, Perennials, Ornamental Grasses, Fruit Trees, Berries & Brambles, and Butterfly Bush** are guaranteed to the end of the year in which they were purchased.

## Shared Warranty Plants

Certain plants which require special soil preparation, site selection, special care needs, or those that are marginally hardy to zone 6 but are still desirable, become the shared responsibility of the customer & Wilson Plant Co. Such plants may be difficult by nature or not well-suited to this environment but do fill a plant niche. So, to help you along in your "risky" gardening endeavors, we honor a "shared warranty" whereby we replace these plants ONE time at 40% off their regular price. These plants include (but may not be limited to): Azaleas, Laurels, Rhododendrons, Pieris, Daphne, Cryptomeria, Acuba, False Cypress, Blue Hollies, Caryopteris, Butterfly Bush, Dogwoods (Cornus Florida & Cornus Kousa), Japanese Maples, Ilex Crenata (Steed, Sky Pencil, Hoogendorn, Helleri, Hollies, Soft Touch, etc.), Crape Myrtle, Leyland Cyprus, Sarcococca, Blue Spruce, Vitex, Nandina, Camelias, select Magnolia varieties, & other zone 6 & 7 tender varieties.

## Sale items

Items discounted by 30-40% carry a limited 30-day guarantee unless noted otherwise.

## Not guaranteed

Annuals, tropicals, houseplants, vegetables, water plants, plants or items on sale at 50% off or more, or plants kept in above-ground containers.

### Warranties on special promotions may vary.

All warranties are effective for properly planted & maintained plants. We assume no responsibility for damage by pests, lawn mowers, weeders, chemicals, inadequate drainage, soil conditions, or neglect. Acts of nature including drought, ice, snow, excessive wind, or prolonged extreme temperatures exempt the warranty. Planting and care in the short and long term is your responsibility.



# Plant Guarantee

Planting & Maintenance  
for your Plants

wilsonnurseriesky.com

502-223-1488 Frankfort | 859-269-5795 Lexington

By sharing our 40+ year history, knowledge and expertise,  
we confidently guarantee success in your gardening and landscaping endeavors.  
Use this growing guide to do things right and make our world a greener place.

## How to Plant

### Balled + Burlapped Trees

Dig a hole 2-3 times as wide and the same depth as the plant root ball. Mix **Pine Soil Conditioner** with the freshly dug soil in a ratio of about 1:2.

Place the plant in the hole so that the top of the root ball is just slightly above original soil level, no deeper, so that the root flare (where you see bare roots extending from the main trunk) is slightly exposed. Trim off any excess burlap or twine that is wrapped around the trunk.

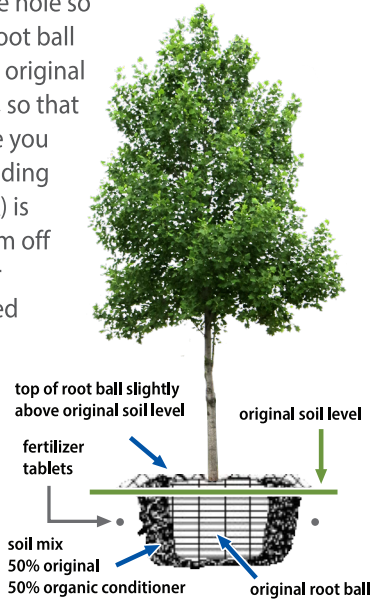
*Planting depth is very important.*

Backfill the hole with amended soil, adding our recommended number of fertilizer tablets when the hole is half full, and *gently* "tamp" down.

Apply a 3" layer of mulch, taking care to keep it away from the trunk. *Do not* build up mulch around the trunk. Instead, form a watering ring "donut" with the mulch.

Water generously immediately after planting.

Leave the burlap on the root ball to keep it intact; it will biodegrade in 1-2 months. Take care when handling root balls, a broken root ball is likely to cause the plant to die.



### Removing Root Ball Baskets

Balled & burlapped plants may have a metal basket around the root ball which should be removed to prevent root breakage and "girdling" and ultimately may cause the tree or shrub to die. Using wire cutters, remove the bottom half of the basket. Place the tree in the planting hole and fill in around the root ball with enough soil to stabilize the plant, then remove the remaining wire basket.

## How to Plant

### Plants in Containers

These follow the same basic tree and shrub guidelines *except* they should be planted level with the ground grade. No topsoil or backfill should be added above the roots, only mulch which will allow surface roots to breathe.

## Get Good Dirt

For all plants, **soil preparation** is essential. By taking extra steps to amend soil at planting time and after, you ensure they will not only survive, but will thrive. Generally, soil preparation means loosening compacted or heavy soils to increase drainage & enrich the soil for plants.

Kentucky soil in particular needs to be amended for planting.

### Recommended organic amendments

- **Pine Soil Conditioner:** aged pine fines which improve drainage and break up clay soils (available in bags).
- **Compost Mix:** a locally produced 50/50 mixture of pine fines and standardbred compost (available in bulk "scoops").

### Other tried and true soil amendments

- Peat moss: acidifies the soil
- Cow manure: adds nitrogen and organic matter
- Gypsum: breaks down clay

Plants such as azaleas, rhododendron, sourwood, pieris, and many perennials have specialized needs requiring rich, well-drained soil to thrive and slightly more involved soil prep. These should be planted in deeply-tilled beds into which organic matter has been mixed with existing soil in a 1:1 ratio. Soil preparation is a process and the best beds are the result of persistence. Amending soil each season or every time you plant will result in rich, loose soil that is ideal for growing lush, healthy, well-rooted plants.

## Feed Thy Plants [Fertilizing]

Feeding plants regularly is a proactive approach to preventing problems & maintaining health. While all plants have different fertilizer needs, there are a few general rules. Refer to our plant-specific information sheets to learn the best fertilizers for your plants.

### Container Gardens

Use a slow-release fertilizer such as Osmocote and supplement weekly with a water-soluble fertilizer such as Monty's, Jack's or Neptune's Organic.

### Landscape Plantings

Use Osmocote for annuals, perennials, grasses and roses, or go natural with Espoma Plant Tone and Rose Tone. Supplement this with water-soluble fertilizer.

### Trees & Shrubs

When planting, use Espoma Bio-Tone or our fertilizer tablets that feed slowly for the first year. After this, feed woody plants in March, June, & November with Milorganite, Espoma Holly Tone, Tree Tone or Plant Tone.

## Continuing Care Tips

### Pruning [grab your Felcos]



#### Evergreen Trees & Shrubs

Prune as needed March through September.

#### Deciduous Shrubs

Prune in late fall or early spring. Flowering shrubs that bloom in the spring should be pruned immediately after the flowers fade. Shrubs that bloom in the summer should be pruned in early spring before new growth begins.

#### Azaleas & Rhododendrons

Prune after spring blooming season has ended. Rhododendrons require little or no pruning. Remove dead wood & spent flower heads. Azaleas can be cut back to desired size and shape immediately after the blooms have faded.

#### Hydrangeas

This one is simple. Remove spent blooms to get more. No need to cut back hydrangeas, simply cut out old dead wood.

#### Ornamental Grasses

Cut back to 2-3" above ground level in late February or early March.

#### Annuals & Perennials

Remove spent blooms. Trim as needed through the growing season. Some perennials will need to be cut back after the first hard frost of fall and annuals should be removed.

#### Spring Bulbs

Cut foliage back after it turns completely yellow. Cutting back sooner will result in greatly reduced blooming or no blooming the following spring.

#### Deciduous Trees

Prune in late winter or early spring before bud break, except for Elms, Maples, Birches, Dogwoods, Oaks and Yellowwoods, which should be pruned early to mid-summer. Dogwoods should be pruned immediately after blooming.