

Fertilizing

We recommend using our tried-and-true **Slow Release 12-6-8** fertilizer for optimum growth.

- Fertilize plants, trees, and palms three times a year—once in spring, summer, and early fall—with a slow-release high-nitrogen fertilizer.
- Avoid fertilizing in winter, as nitrogen stimulates new growth vulnerable to freezes.
- Do not fertilize before heavy rains are forecast.
- After applying fertilizer, give your plants a thorough watering to help nutrients absorb into the soil.

HOW MUCH FERTILIZER TO USE?



3-gal plant: **1.5 tablespoons**
7-gal plant: **3.5 tablespoons**
15-gal plant: **Approx. 1/2 cup**
30-gal plant: **Approx. 1 cup**
45-gal plant: **Approx. 1.5 cups**
B&B: **Approximately 2 cups**

When to Trim

Pruning encourages healthy growth, but doing it at the wrong time may inflict damage.

Wait Before Trimming:

Allow your new plants to establish themselves before the first pruning—typically 6 mos to 1 year.

Seasonal Guidelines:

Avoid trimming in late fall and winter, as foliage provides insulation against frosts and freezes.

Best Times to Trim:

For strong growth and flowering, prune after the last frost in spring, but before summer heat.

What to Trim:

Remove dead, diseased, or damaged branches first. Shape the plant only as needed to maintain its natural form.

PRO TIPS: Use sharp tools disinfected with alcohol to avoid spreading disease. NEVER remove more than 1/3 of the plant at a time to prevent unnecessary stress.

What is considered an established shrub or tree?

Shrubs:

Typically, a shrub becomes established after being in the ground for 1-2 years, depending on the plant's species and growth rate. At this stage, the root system should be strong and well-developed.

Trees:

Trees typically take 2-3 years to establish. An established tree will show consistent annual growth and should no longer need staking.

NEW AND STILL ESTABLISHING PLANT CARE CAVEATS

Transplant shock:

Watch for wilting, yellowing, or stunted growth. Adjust watering if necessary and seek advice if the plant does not improve.

Soil drainage:

Ensure proper drainage to prevent root rot, especially if the soil is clay-heavy.

Ground cover:

Keep mulch fresh or add a 2-3" layer of rocks to regulate water evaporation.

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Thank you for choosing us, your local family-run nursery. We are delighted to be a part of your gardening journey.


Canterbury Farms
GARDEN CENTER AND NURSERY

30+ years of growing in the Tampa Bay area!

Plant like a pro!

Choose the right spot

Make sure your plant will get the correct amount of sunlight. If you're uncertain, ask us for guidance.

Prepare the soil:

If you have sandy, porous soil, amend it by mixing in rich organic soil to improve moisture retention and provide essential nutrients for your plant.

When digging the hole, mix the organic soil with your existing soil in a 1:1 ratio.

Set the amended soil aside for backfilling.

Dig the perfect hole:

The hole should be twice as wide as the root ball but no deeper than the height of the root ball.

Level matters:

Place your plant so that the top of the root ball is level with the ground. Planting too deep might suffocate roots.



Backfill gently:

Use the amended soil to fill around the plant, firming it gently to remove air pockets. Avoid overpacking.

Mulch smart:

Add a 2-3 inch layer of mulch around the base, keeping it a few inches away from the trunk or stem to prevent rot.

PRO TIP: Add water and a handful of our 12-6-8 fertilizer into the planting hole before placing your plant. This locks in moisture at the base of the root ball, provides essential nutrients, encourages root growth, and reduces transplant shock.

THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Proper watering is essential!

SHRUBS & PALMS

First 30 Days:

Water 20–30 minutes every day.

For drip irrigation, this equals 2–4 gallons per plant per day. If hand watering, use a slow, steady stream. Goal here is to soak the root zone, not have runoff.

Day 31 to 60:

Water 30 minutes per day, 2 times a week.

Equivalent to 4–8 gallons per week per plant.

Day 61 to 90:

Water once or twice a week for 30 minutes.

Equivalent to 4–6 gallons per week per plant.

TREES

First 45 Days:

Water 20–30 minutes every day. Equivalent to 10–20 gallons per day, depending on tree size.

Day 46 to 60:

Water 30 minutes per day, 2 times a week.

Equivalent to 20–40 gallons per week per tree.

Day 61 to 90:

Water once or twice a week for 30 minutes.

Equivalent to 10–30 gallons per week per tree.

How much water do I need?

It depends on the size of your plant or tree.

3-gallon plant:	2 gallons per day
7-gallon plant:	5 gallons per day
15-gallon plant:	10 gallons per day
30-gallon plant:	20 gallons per day
45-gallon plant:	40 gallons per day
B&B Trees:	65 gallons per day

PRO TIP: CONSISTENCY IS KEY!

Water deeply to encourage strong roots. Avoid shallow watering.

Sprinkler Systems:

Adjust to provide an adequate amount of water.

Typically, 20–30 minutes of watering equals 1 inch of water over the root zone.

Drip Irrigation:

Calculate based on the gallon-per hour (GPH) rating of your drip emitters.

Example: A 2GPH emitter running for 15 minutes delivers 0.5 gallons.

Hand Watering:

Use a watering can or hose with a nozzle set to slow low flow. Water each plant for 30 seconds to 3 minutes according to its size. Larger plants need more time for deep soaking.

Weather-wise watering guide

After 90 days, your plants are becoming established, but they still need care:

Water once a week during normal weather.

In hotter months or during **drought conditions**, increase watering to 2–3 times a week, ensuring a deep soak. Be sure to follow local county watering restrictions and permitting guidelines.

If you have planted during the fall, winter, or spring, your plants are still adjusting to their environment. Continue to water regularly until they are established.

During peak summer, visually assess your plants' health to determine whether their needs are being met. Look for signs of stress, such as wilting or yellowing leaves; check for dry soil and adjust watering or care as needed.

When heavy rains are frequent, monitor the soil to prevent overwatering.