



Tri State Tree Farm, LLC

7901 Hendricks Ln

Peosta, IA 52068

Dear Valued Customer,

Thank you for choosing Tri State Tree Farm as your provider for your shade trees. We would like to inform you of a few important details to ensure for proper watering and care post installation. Please take a moment to review the following information:

1. **Watering Schedule:** Proper watering is crucial for the establishment and growth of shade trees. Follow this watering schedule to ensure optimal care:
 - **Initial Watering:** After planting the shade tree, give it a thorough watering to settle the soil and remove air pockets. Provide enough water to saturate the root ball and surrounding soil.
 - **First Month:** For the first month, water the tree deeply once or twice a week. Aim for a slow, deep watering that penetrates the soil to encourage the tree's roots to grow downward.
 - **Subsequent Months:** After the initial month, reduce the frequency of watering to once every 7-10 days. Increase the amount of water per session to encourage deep root growth.
 - **Rainfall Consideration:** Adjust your watering schedule based on rainfall. If it rains significantly, you can reduce or skip watering. Conversely, during periods of drought or hot weather, you may need to water more frequently.
2. **Watering Technique:** Apply water in a way that ensures proper absorption and distribution throughout the tree's root zone.
 - **Soaker Hose or Drip Irrigation:** Consider using a soaker hose, drip irrigation system, or a tree bag placed at the base of the tree. These methods deliver water slowly and directly to the roots, minimizing runoff and promoting efficient water uptake.
 - **Tree Bag Watering:** If using a tree bag, fill it according to the manufacturer's instructions and allow the water to slowly release into the root zone over a period of hours or days. Monitor the bag to ensure proper water distribution.
 - **Avoid Overhead Sprinklers:** If overhead sprinklers are used, water the tree during the early morning hours to minimize water loss due to evaporation. However, overhead watering should be avoided if possible, as it can lead to shallow root growth and promote certain diseases.
3. **Mulching:** Apply a layer of mulch around the base of the tree to conserve moisture, suppress weed growth, and moderate soil temperature.

- **Mulch Depth:** Spread a 2 to 4-inch layer of organic mulch such as wood chips or shredded bark. Avoid piling up mulch around the trunk of the tree, as it can cause rot and disease. Maintain a 6-inch diameter space around the trunk without mulch.
- **Mulch Diameter:** Extend the mulch layer to the tree's drip line or slightly beyond. This area covers the tree's root zone where moisture and nutrients are absorbed.

4. Pruning and Maintenance:

- **Pruning:** Prune shade trees during their dormant season (typically late fall or winter) to remove dead, damaged, or crossing branches. Avoid excessive pruning, especially during the tree's early years, as it can hinder growth.
- **Fertilization:** Conduct a soil test to determine if fertilization is necessary. Apply a slow-release, balanced fertilizer specifically formulated for trees if deficiencies are identified. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for application rates and timing.
- **Inspect for Pests and Diseases:** Regularly inspect your shade tree for signs of pests, diseases, or abnormal growth. Contact a professional arborist or local extension service if you notice any concerning symptoms.

5. Protection from External Factors:

- **Weed Control:** Keep the area around the tree free from weeds and competing vegetation, as they can hinder the tree's growth and rob it of essential nutrients.
- **Protection from Mechanical Damage:** Avoid hitting the tree trunk with lawnmowers or string trimmers, as they can cause injury and create entry points for pests and diseases. Install protective barriers, such as tree guards, if necessary.
- **Protection from Harsh Elements:** In extreme weather conditions, such as severe winds or storms, provide temporary support to young trees or take measures to protect them from potential damage. Staking the trees will help them remain vertical.

6. Release of Liability:

- The customer acknowledges that they are responsible for the care and maintenance of the shade tree installation. By following the provided watering and care instructions, the client assumes all responsibility for the tree's well-being and releases any liability from the installer or any other party involved in the installation process.

Remember, these instructions are general guidelines, and specific care requirements may vary depending on the tree species. Consult with a local arborist or horticultural expert for advice tailored to your specific shade tree species and local climate.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Tri State Tree Farm

www.tristatetrees.co

info@tristatetrees.co

563-583-3966