



Tree, Evergreen & Shrub Care by Season

Recommended timing for common tree care activities.

Weather Note
Planting, fertilizing and pruning should be avoided during extreme weather conditions such as drought or high winds.

		SPRING		SUMMER		AUTUMN		WINTER	
		BUDS SWELL	LEAVES EMERGE	LEAVES FULL SIZE	LEAVES TURN	LEAVES DROP	SOIL FROZEN		
INSTALL	PLANT	Preferred		Depends on situation		Preferred		Not advised	
	TRANSPLANT	Preferred		Some plants transplant better in late spring and summer. Check with local nursery.		Preferred		Not advised	
MAINTAIN	WATER	It is essential to water during summer and drought conditions.				Late autumn watering reduces winter damage.		Not advised	
	MULCH	Maintain a ring of mulch (2"-4" deep) around the tree but not against the trunk.				Preferred		Not advised	
PRUNING	EVERGREEN BRANCHES	Sap runs but does not affect health of the tree.				Preferred		Not advised	
	EVERGREEN SHRUB SHEARING	Not advised		Preferred		Not advised		Not advised	
	DECIDUOUS BRANCHES	Oak, mountainash, hawthorn, and fruit trees are susceptible to disease when pruned during this period. See resources listed below.				Preferred		Not advised	
GROWTH	STAKING	Apply only when tree won't stand on its own. Check to make sure trunk is not being injured from attachments. Loosen if necessary.				Preferred		Not advised	
	FERTILIZE	Not advised		Test soil first. Apply low rates of nitrogen only if needed. See resources listed below.		Not advised		Not advised	
PROTECT	TRUNK PROTECTION	Remove protection.	Mulch or plastic guards may be placed around trunks during growing season to prevent damage from lawn mowers or trimming equipment.			Apply if trunks need protection, encircle with hardware cloth, 3 inches from trunk.			
	BRANCHES & FOLIAGE	Remove protection.	Not advised			Multi-stemmed plants can be bound with burlap or twine to prevent breakage from snow and ice loads.			
MONITOR	HEALTH	Check for animal and winter damage.		Check for insects & disease. See resources listed below.		Preferred		Check for animal and winter damage.	
	SAFETY	Monitor year round, but especially after storms. See resources listed below.				Preferred		Not advised	

Tree Types

Deciduous

Leaves drop in autumn



Coniferous

Evergreen year-round



Preferred



Depends on situation



Not advised

Resources

Licensed Tree Contractors

www.burnsville.org/forestry

University of Minnesota

Extension

www.extension.umn.edu

Plant Disease Clinic

www.pdc.umn.edu

Soil Testing Laboratory

www.soiltest.cfans.umn.edu

For more information, contact the City of Burnsville Forestry Department at 952-895-4508 or visit www.burnsville.org/forestry.