

McLean Maple Farm – Tree Planting Tips

Do not plant too deep. This is the #1 reason for losing a tree.

If you plan to transport trees in an open truck or trailer, you will need something to protect the leaves from wind such as shade cloth, sheet, etc.

- Water the tree(s) deep the night before planting. This will allow the trees to take up as much moisture as possible before planting.
- Do not "rough up" the roots if the tree has leaves on it.
- Use a planting mix to blend in with the native soil when planting.
- Check the hole for drainage after digging by pouring water in and making sure it drains well.
- Do not plant the tree too deep! Make sure the root flare or top root is visible on top of ground. Trees need to breathe.
- Mulch the area around the tree well. This keeps moisture in, competition down & will provide nutrients for the tree. It also acts as an insulator for extreme temperatures.
- If you use fertilizer, only use a "slow release" type such as osmocote or nutricote. We usually have 2 pounds for \$5. Stores sell 2 lbs for around \$15.
- Trees that have been in a lot of shade should be gradually exposed to sun if you are planting in mostly sun. A few hours of sun, then increase every day or 2.
- Keep trees in the containers well watered (do not keep in full sun) until you plant them. Water every day or 2 until the water runs out of the pot.
- We use an anti-transpirant mixed with a fungicide & insecticide in May on the trees. It helps a lot with heat stress, etc. We do sell the "Nature Shield" anti-transpirant.
- For Japanese Beetles you need to use a systemic insecticide (Merit or Bonide granules). This takes up to 2-3 weeks to be absorbed into the tree. Treat prior to Japanese Beetle season. Japanese Beetles first emerge in South Carolina around the beginning of June.

Fabric pots may need to be "cut" if the roots have grabbed hold of the fabric. Cut the pot down the side 3 or 4 places and peel it like a banana.

Save the plastic pots & bring them back if possible. We can usually reuse them & it keeps them out of the landfills.

An anti transpirant will help protect the trees from drying out. We use it on all of the trees and have decided it works very well. You can mix insecticide and fungicide in with it. This should be used after plants leaf out. The underside of the leaves is where it needs to be applied, this is where they lose moisture.

Nature Shield (FAQs) for protecting Japanese Maples & other plants on our website. www.mcleanweb.org We have jars of this available to make 1 gallon of mixture.

