



## Evergreens Trees and Shrubs

How to plant, water, fertilize, and prune evergreen trees and shrubs.

### What are evergreens?

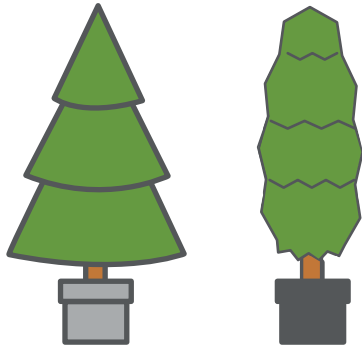
Evergreens are plants that keep their leaves and remain green beyond just spring and summer. A tree or shrub is classified as an evergreen depends on the climate in which it grows. In our climate, coniferous plants (cone-bearing plants with needles instead of leaves) are considered evergreens.

## What You Will Need

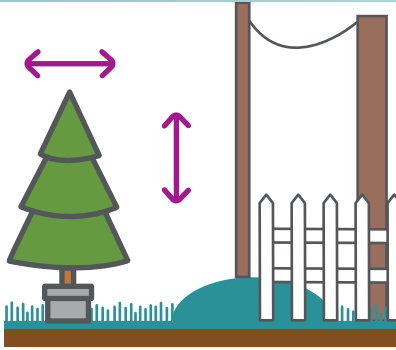


Top tip! Spring and fall are the best times to plant trees and shrubs.

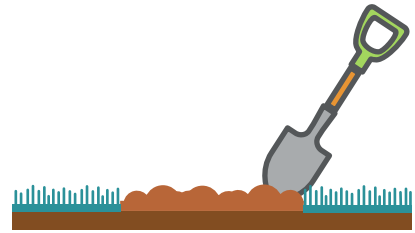
## How to Plant



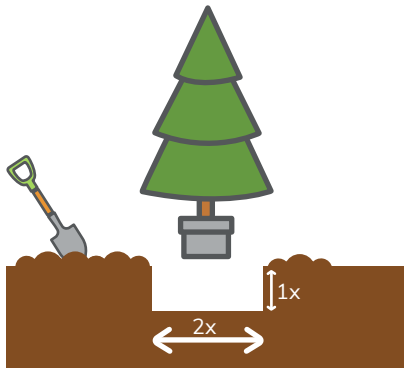
1. Choose which type of tree or shrub you'd like to plant.



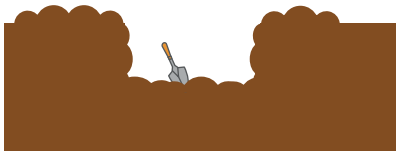
2. Then choose a suitable location to plant.  
**Tip!** Keep the height and width of the mature plant in mind. Make sure the location will not interfere with overhead powerlines or grow into the side of a house or fence.



3. Remove all grass, plants and weeds from the area you're going to plant your tree or shrub.



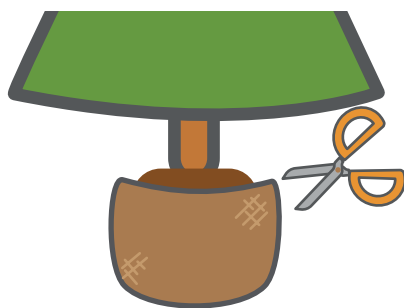
4. Dig a hole that is 2x as wide as the root ball (or container) and the same depth.



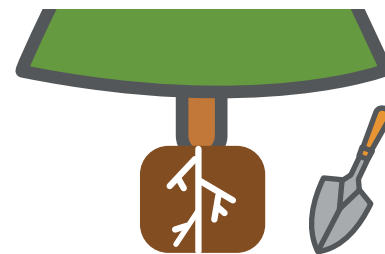
5. Loosen the surrounding soil in the hole. This will make it easier for the roots to penetrate the surrounding soil.



6. Remove the plant from the container.  
**Tip!** If the tree or shrub is large, ask a friend for help.



7. If the root ball is contained in burlap, cut and loosen the fabric then remove it from the top of the root ball.

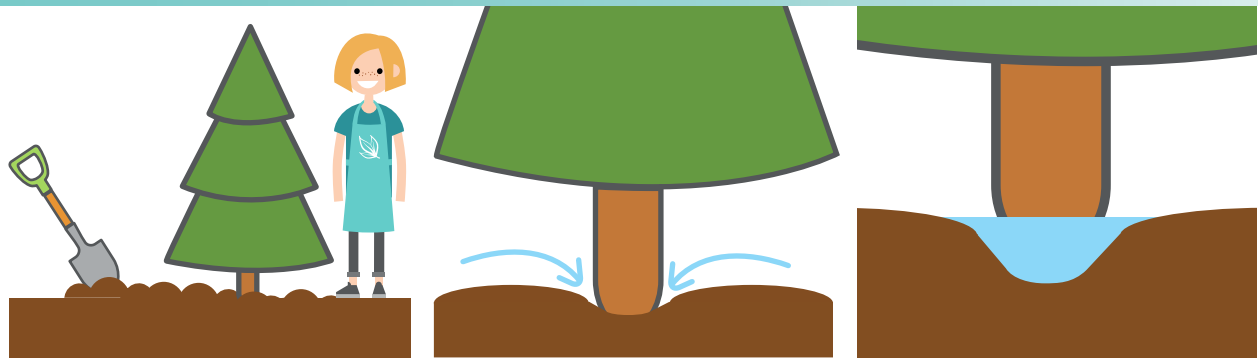


8. Loosen the root ball. Usually, evergreen root systems are tight and matted, so use a tool to loosen the roots.



- Tip!** Use Myke when you plant your trees and shrubs. Myke contains a symbiotic fungus that exponentially increases root growth and increases survival rate by 75%.

## How to plant.



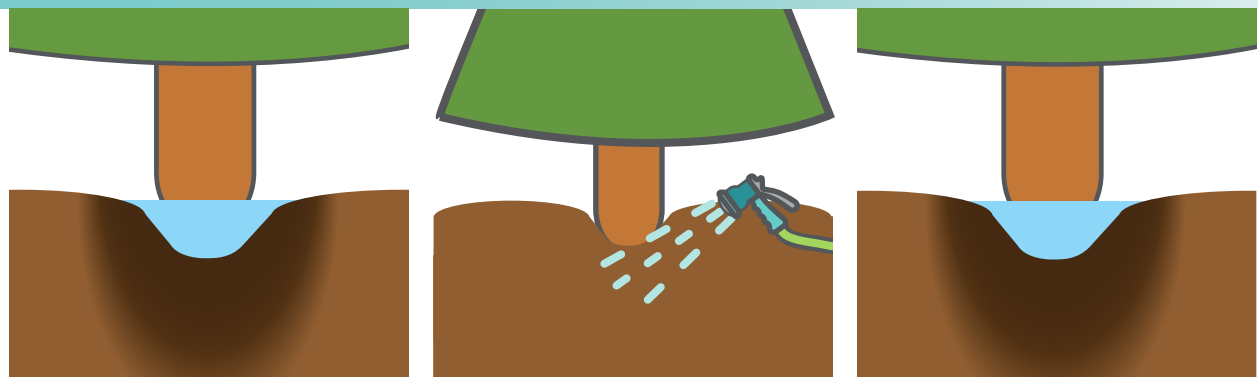
9. Lift the plant and place the root ball in the hole.\* Backfill any gaps with soil. Once filled, tamp the soil firmly with your foot.

10. Create a well so the top of the root ball is lower than the surrounding ground. This well will hold and direct water toward the root ball.

11. Water the planted tree or shrub thoroughly by filling the well with water.

\*Only bury the root ball as deep as the original container. If you bury the crown of the plant (where the root ball turns to the trunk/stem) too deep you risk the suffocating the plant.

## How to water.



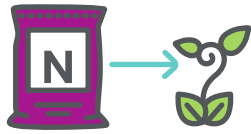
1. Water your new evergreen at a slow trickle every day for the first two weeks. Water until saturated (the water is fully absorbed and excess begins to pool).

2. Over the next two weeks (weeks three and four, water at a slow trickle every second day until saturated.

3. As it begins to mature water as needed. Water deeply at a slow trickle until saturated. This long technique of watering helps promote a healthy deep root system.

Fun fact! Watering for a long time, so the water soaks the soil deeply, encourages the roots to grow down (and reach the water). This promotes a large and healthy root system.

## How to fertilize.



1. A fertilizer high in nitrogen promotes lush, green growth.



2. Dilute fertilizer and apply following the manufacturer's directions.



3. Apply fertilizer in the early spring as soon as new growth appears. Repeat every two to four weeks as needed.

## Evergreen favourites.

The following evergreen trees and shrubs are very popular in Calgary, and do very well in our climate and growing season:

- Cedars\*
- Junipers
- Larch
- Pines
- Spruce
- Yew

\*Cedars are popular but require more care in Calgary. Ask an expert for help.

*[Find these plants and more with our Plant Finder app, plantfinder.ca.](https://plantfinder.ca)*

Fun fact! Larch is a coniferous tree but not evergreen. In autumn the needles turn a brilliant gold colour, then fall (similar to deciduous trees).

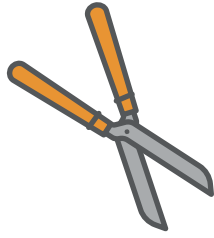
## Why should I prune my trees and shrubs?

Pruning helps to maintain plant health, a natural and visual pleasing shape, and keep it a manageable size.

**Tip! When it comes to pruning, remember the 5 Ds and prune for:**

1. Dead branches; no new growth, rotten, etc.
2. Diseased branches can impact the health of the entire plant. Remove branches infected with black knot, fire blight, black rot cankers, severe cases of powdery mildew, and rust. Branches with black spot may also require pruning.
3. Damaged branches that are broken and impact the health of the plant. Lightning, wind and snowstorms can severely damage branches.
4. Dangerous branches that pose a hazard i.e., above or close to power lines, over a roof, tripping hazards, risk of stabbing or cutting, at head height, etc.
5. Desirable shape; prune branches to achieve the height, width, structure and shape you desire.

## How to Prune



1. Always use sharp and clean pruning shears.



25%

+

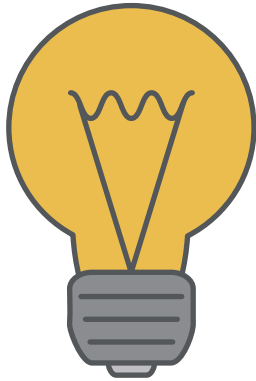


75%

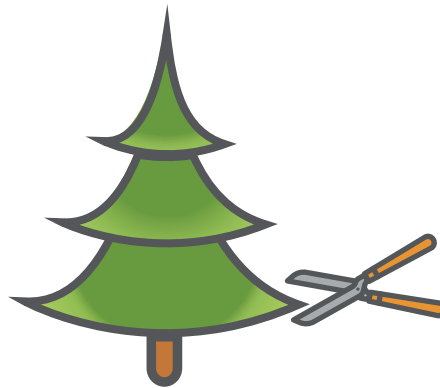
2. You can disinfect your pruning tools by dipping them in a 25% bleach: 75% water solution.



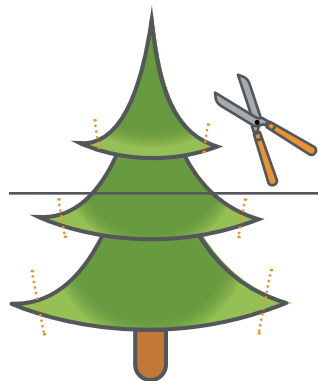
3. Always prune out the dead and diseased branches as soon as you notice them.



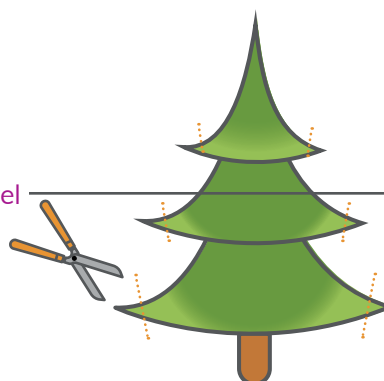
4. Carefully select the branch you are going to cut so as not to spoil the shape of the plant.  
**Tip! Think twice, cut once.**



5. The new growth on pines called “candles”, should be cut in half in June after the new growth has hardened. These candles are the softer needles that grow straight up. Pruning them encourages a compact plant shape.  
**Tip! Cedars, spruce and junipers can be shaped at any time.**



Eye level



6. Make cuts that look natural by angling your shears downwards for branches below eye level. Angle your shears upwards when branches are above eye level. This will hide cuts and make the plant look more natural.



**Tip! Pruning in the late fall or early winter is beneficial because you can use the trimmings for holiday containers or decorations for your door.**