



## CONIFEROUS TREES

### Site planning

All of the coniferous trees we grow mature to be LARGE trees-it is important to consider that when picking your site. Don't plant them under power/utility lines or too close to buildings/infrastructure. Root systems can heave sidewalks, crack driveways and interfere with underground wires/drainage. Most of them prefer well drained soil rich in organic matter with full sun. Like anything you can maintain them smaller-or in a hedge with regular pruning but the nature of the beast is to grow big!

### Planting

Dig a hole twice the size of the pot and loosen up as much soil as you can around the hole. As you fill in around the root ball be sure to pat the soil down to remove any air pockets. DON'T add fertilizer to the hole as you can burn the roots. Ensure the soil level at the top of the pot is level with the ground - don't bury the trunk deeper than it was in the pot! Water well. Mulching the ground around the tree helps maintain moisture in the soil and cuts down on competition from weeds. DON'T put the mulch right up against the trunk of the tree - keep it out a few inches.

### Pruning

For the most part when grown in full sun a conifer will grow fairly uniform and neat looking with a central leader. As with any plant, pruning out dead, diseased or broken branches is recommended. The most common reason to prune a conifer from an aesthetic point of view is to get a denser, bushier tree. "Topping" (removing the top of the central leader) is frowned upon and will contribute to the shortening of the trees life expectancy as well as structural issues.