

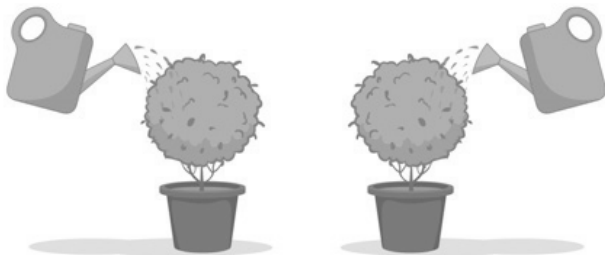
CARING FOR YOUR CONTAINER TREE

CONTAINER SIZE

To determine container size consider current plant size, eventual plant size, and your space available. The pot should be at least 6" larger in circumference than the current root ball. The plant may need to be up potted or root pruned in future years to maintain a healthy specimen. If the pot is much larger than the current root ball, watering challenges arise.

WATERING

All container plants require more water than the same plant in the ground. In hot summer months the container may need watered every day, depending on the size of the pot. If a small plant is placed in a very large container it can be difficult to keep the actual root ball moist. Take extra care to soak the root zone and not just the excess potting soil.



SOIL AND FERTILIZER

We recommend potting soil for container plants because it offers the best drainage. Never use dirt dug from the garden. Fertilize once a year, in the spring, with an all-purpose fertilizer of your choice.



PLANTING IN THE GROUND

When ready to move your plant from a pot into the ground dig a hole twice as wide and the same depth as the current pot. Fill the hole with water and allow to drain if the soil is dry. Gently loosen the roots if necessary and lower the tree into the hole. Mix in a handful of bone meal or rock phosphate to encourage root development, or add some starter fertilizer if desired. Current research recommends not adding compost to the soil. Simply backfill with existing soil around the root ball. Water thoroughly to settle, even on a rainy day.

FAVORITE CONTAINER TREES

**Please note that these suggestions are subject to seasonal availability.*

Acer palmatum- Japanese Maple. There are many varieties which stay under 10'. These maples prefer morning sun and afternoon shade. Some varieties can take full shade. All are deciduous. Zone 5.

Betula pendula 'Trost's Dwarf'- Thread-like, bright green leaves that turn to yellow in the fall. Slow growing to 3-4' tall/wide. Zone 2. Needs excellent drainage.

Betula nigra 'Fox Valley'- Creamy tan, peeling bark with yellow foliage in fall. Reaches 10-12'. Very rare size for a birch. Full sun.

Ceanothus spp.- Wild Lilac. Many varieties available, size dependent upon species. Most are easily pruned into tree form. Zones 6-7.

Chamaecyparis obtusa varieties- Hinoki Cypress. There are dwarf varieties which do not grow more than 6"/year. These slow growing varieties do not surpass the 5' mark. They are evergreen and come in many colors and textures. Zones 4-8.

Chamaecyparis thyoides 'Red Star'- A unique white cedar with gray-green, star-shaped foliage that turns maroon in winter. Grows 3-6"/year in an upright, conical form. Hardy to Zone 3.

FAVORITE CONTAINER TREES CONTINUED

Cornus alba or *stolonifera* cultivars- Red twig dogwoods. These shrubs can be easily trained up into a tree form. They can reach 8-10' tall & wide. Beautiful, brightly colored twigs in winter. Sun or part shade. Zones 2-8.

Cryptomeria japonica 'Black Dragon'- A slow growing conifer reaching 8-10' tall. Black-green foliage on upright stems. Evergreen. Full sun. Protect in winter. Zones 5-6.

Lagerstroemia indica 'Petite Pinkie'- Crape Myrtle. An ideal choice for a hot spot. This shrub/tree is attractive all year. It reaches 5' tall and 4' wide. Clusters of bright pink flowers in late summer are followed by blazing fall color. Deciduous. Zone 6-8.

Larix decidua 'Pendula'- Weeping European Larch. Gorgeous deciduous conifer with lime green needles in spring, which turn golden in fall. Stake to desired height. Zones 2-6.

Malus 'Coralburst'- Crabapple. This variety reaches only 8-10' tall and forms a dense head. Bright coral buds open to double pink flowers. Small bronzy-orange fruit. Deciduous. Full sun. Zone 5.

Picea glauca 'Conica'- Dwarf Alberta Spruce. Classic cone-shaped conifer. Grows 3-6"/year. Matures at 8-12' tall and wide. Easy to prune to desired size.

Rhus typhina 'Tiger Eyes'- A newer variety of cutleaf Sumac. Bright foliage turns vibrant red in fall. Eventually reaching 6' with a broad canopy. Sun to part shade.

Ribes sanguineum 'King Edward VIII'- Flowering currant. Beautiful teardrop, pink flowers in spring. Vibrant fall color before the leaves fall to reveal peeling bark. Reaches 8' tall and 3-5' wide. Part shade to full sun (with ample water). Zone 5.

Salix caprea 'Pendula'- Weeping Pussy Willow. This pendulous form reaches 8' tall & wide from the graft. Silvery gray, furry flowers in February/March. Requires a lot of water if kept in a container. Zones 4-8.



Container Trees



Trees under 10' for patios, containers, and small places

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