



# Johnston's Evergreen Nursery, Inc.

## Garden Center

10000 Wales Road, Erie, PA 16510-5499

[johnstonplants.com/center](http://johnstonplants.com/center)

Phone (814) 739-2820 Fax (814) 739-9522 E-Mail [gardencenter@johnstonplants.com](mailto:gardencenter@johnstonplants.com)

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## WATERING OF NEW PLANTED TREES

When new trees are planted they require a great deal of water for the formation of new roots and to reduce transplant stress. How you water will prove critical to the tree this year and for many years in the future.

Water should be given to the tree shortly after installation to settle the backfilled soil and to saturate the roots. Your watering schedule will now be determined by rainfall and soil conditions. As a general rule trees will be watered twice a week for the first two to three weeks, and once a week for the remainder of the growing season. If you receive 1 inch of rain, watering should then be reduced to once per week. **Never believe that a little shower will water your tree.** Container plants have no real soil in the root ball, thus they will dry out faster than the surrounding native soil. Your soil may be moist but the root ball may still be dry. Water always at the root ball, and water slowly and for long periods.

One of the easiest ways to water new trees is to use two 5 gallon buckets. Drill two 1/16 inch holes on one side of the bucket about 1/4 to 1/2 inch up from the bottom. Fill the buckets with water and place on the root ball on two sides of the tree with the holes of the bucket facing the trunk. This will take several hours to empty and will ensure a good long soaking with no waste of water and very minimal time spent on your part. Again, make sure you are watering the root ball and not the native soil, during the first month there are no roots in the native soil. Two or three weeks after planting reduce watering to once per week and continue for the rest of the growing season. **How you water the first year of planting will determine how the tree will grow for many years.**

Remember the whole idea of producing good roots is to water long and deep then to let the tree dry. If you let the tree get to the wilting point watering must be immediate or damage will result. The following season after planting watering should only have to be done in times of extreme dryness to avoid any drought stress on the tree.

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*Think of us first for all your plant needs.*



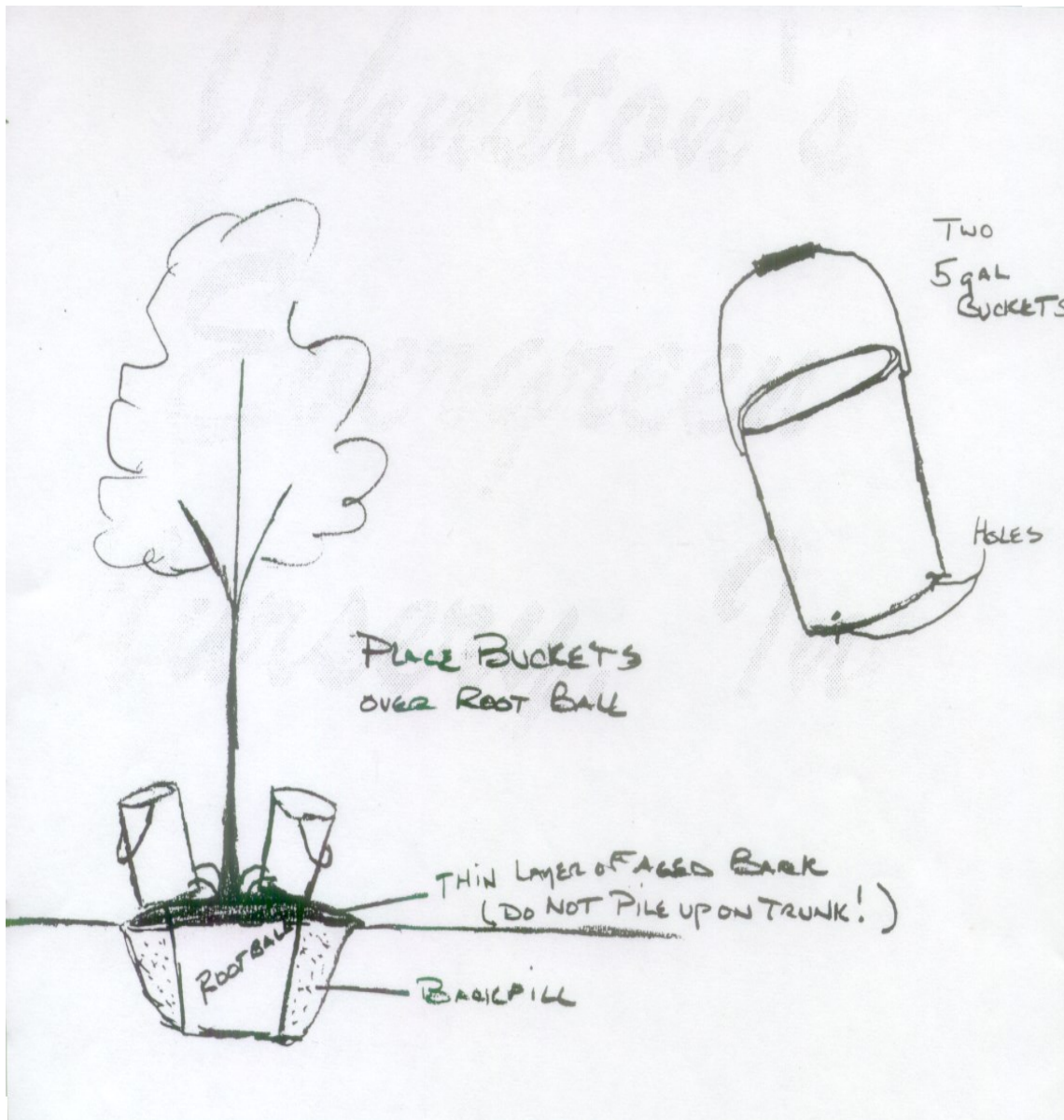
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<http://www.ncinter.net/~jenrsy>

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## Watering Diagram



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