

TREE PLANTING AND CARE

Thank you for purchasing a Red Bud. Here are some pointers for tree planting and care: (These pertain to most trees, especially those that bloom.)

- Position your tree in full sun or part shade spots for best bloom & growth.
- Dovernort magnolias, redbuds, & pterastyrax will grow to 10-15 feet, so give them proper room for final size.
- Amend the soil where you are planting with almost any organic matter.
- Plant them at roughly the same depth that they are growing in the pot.
- Leave the stake on them for the first year or two, pay attention, so as not to let the twist tie get tight and grow into the bark.
- Mulch around the tree with any organic mulch, bark, leaves, etc. (never use gravel) to a depth of 2-3 inches.
- Leave the mulch on all year and top up as it decomposes.
- Soak the planted area when first planted, and then soak again twice a week for the first year, regardless of rain. (looks like another drought summer again this year)
- Fertilize minimally, if you like, with a slow release “tree” fertilizer, but only till mid July, never later in the year.
- If growing where heavy snow accumulates, try and keep them staked till they are larger.
- When healthy & growing, most redbuds will start blooming in the second or third year.
- Growth will be much quicker in the ground once established, often putting on 2-3 feet a year.
- The only pruning needed would be for shape, or broken & dead branches. Never prune till midsummer, after bloom is finished and trees have started to leaf out.
- Don’t worry about bugs, (if you don’t like bugs on your plants you shouldn’t be gardening). The odd pest infest won’t really hurt the trees in the long run. Stays away from chemicals- try a spray of water, dish soap and Tabasco, works well. (Works on those pesky squirrels too, when they are just about to feast on your magnolia blooms)
- Lower branches may be trimmed off as they get taller to produce a “walk-under” tree. Cut neatly and never leave little stumps on the trunk when pruning any trees.
- Then sit back and enjoy your trees, these varieties usually grow to 20 years or longer with minor care.