

## GENERAL CARE & PRUNING TIPS

### PROTECT FROM RABBITS, MICE, DEER AND WINTER BURN IN WINTER MONTHS!

#### EVERGREENS:

Evergreens need to enter winter with adequate moisture in the soil in order to survive the loss of moisture through their needles due to drying winter winds, ect. Remember to keep the soil moist until the ground freezes. Evergreens prefer acidic soil, they take in nutrients from their foliage as well as from their roots. Use a water soluble (Miracid) in the spring to help put the moisture back into there foliage, fertilize the foliage as well as the roots with Miracid. A slow release, granular fertilizer can also be used such as 10-10-10 or 12-12-12. Signs that your evergreens are not getting enough food are off-colored needles and spindly, slow growth.

- **Arborvitae** – Will tolerate wet soil areas or will also grow well in sandy soil, but must be adequately watered due to their shallow root system. In early fall, these plants shed some of their older interior needles, this is normal; however, if brown needles are coming from the tips of the plant, check for disease or insect problems. In the winter, the foliage turns brownish, this is normal winter color and the plants will return to their normal color when the weather warms.

Prune at the best time which for most evergreens is approximately one month after new growth of spring has emerged. When pruning into a hedge, the bottom needs to be wider than the top to ensure the lower branches receive enough sunlight.

- **Juniper** – Prune Junipers at anytime except when the temperature falls below 32 degrees. Prune only as needed, most need little or no pruning. The best time to prune is early spring prior to new growth. Since new growth comes only from the growing tips, branches cannot be pruned back into wood without needles. If the shrub is pruned back to bare wood, it will have a permanent bare spot.
- **Spruce, Cypress, Falsecypress, Fir, Hemlock** – Prune very little if any. Specialty evergreens are an exception and may require some pruning to keep their shape.
- **Yews** – Prune to maintain size or can easily be pruned into various shapes.

Because broadleaf evergreens retain their leaves in winter, they are often susceptible to winter burn from drying winds. Protect the leaves with Wilt Pruf or Wilt Stop to the top and underside prior to winter. This helps prevent the loss of moisture from the leaves. Another method of protecting these plants is to place a burlap barrier to the side of the plant that will receive the prevailing winter winds. Do not wrap the plant, but place burlap as a fence like structure a short distance away by attaching to stakes.

