

## **PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR POTTED EVERGREEN SEEDLINGS**

Evergreen Seedlings are grown and shipped in pots. These seedlings will establish quickly by following the instructions below.

Note: When examining the roots you may see white cottony material around the roots. This is mycorrhizal fungi that is a beneficial fungus that works with the plant to take up nutrients from the soil.

### **Outdoor Planting – spring, summer and fall.**

- Select a planting location that is appropriate of the seedling. A sunny well drained site at least ten feet away from a building is best.
- Inspect the seedling – if the soil is dry, water the pot an hour before planting.
- Dig a hole deep and wide enough to allow room for all of the roots.
- Remove from pot. Roughen the root ball slightly and allow some of the roots to pull away from the root ball.
- Place the seedling in the planting hole, backfill with the original soil and gently firm the soil around the roots. Check plant depth. The seedling root ball should be covered and at the same level as the surrounding soil. Avoid planting too deep.
- Water generously when planted and check twice a week for the first season. Water when the soil feels dry. Avoid over watering.
- Apply mulch around the plant to maintain even moisture.
- If deer are a problem in your area, place chicken wire or a plastic cylinder around the seedling for protection.

### **What to do if potted evergreen is received in the winter months.**

Option 1 - Grow the seedling indoors.

Seedlings can grow in the pot and planted outside in spring after the danger of frost has passed. Place plant in a sunny window. Water well when you receive the potted evergreen. Check pot every couple of days but water only when the soil feels dry to the touch. It is better to water thoroughly and then let the soil dry out before the next watering. At planting time, move outside into a shady spot for a couple of days to adjust to the outdoors before planting. Follow the outdoor planting instructions.

Option 2 - Store seedling in a cool place until spring.

In the winter seedlings are dormant and can be stored in a cool place until spring. Temperatures between 35 to 45 degrees are ideal. This can be a garage, a cool basement or an enclosed porch. Check the soil in the pot every week. Roots and soil should be moist but not standing in water. When the weather warms and the soil dries out from winter, plant in its permanent location following the outdoor planting instructions.