### Seasonal Care for Trees & Shrubs in Northern U.S. Climates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPRING</strong></td>
<td>Bud swell, leaves emerge, sap runs but does not affect the health of the tree.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUMMER</strong></td>
<td>Leaves full size, water if necessary, apply low rates of nitrogen if necessary and other nutrients based on soil test recommendations.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AUTUMN</strong></td>
<td>Leaves turn, mulch or plastic guards may be placed around stems during growing season to prevent damage from lawn mowers or trimming equipment.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WINTER</strong></td>
<td>Leaves drop, apply if trunks need protection, encircle with hardware cloth, 3&quot; from the trunk.</td>
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**Plant Transplant:**
- Some plants transplant better in late spring & summer. Check with your local nursery.
- Late autumn watering reduces winter damage.

**Water:**
- It is essential to water during summer and drought periods.
- Maintain a ring of mulch (2'-4' deep) around the tree but not against the trunk.

**Mulch:**
- Sap runs but does not affect the health of the tree.

**Evergreen Branches:**
- Oak, mountain ash, hawthorn, and fruit trees are susceptible to disease when pruned during this period. Check with State University Diagnostic Clinic.

**Deciduous Branches:**
- Multi-stemmed plants can be bound with burlap or twine to prevent breakage from snow and ice loads.

**Fertilizing:**
- Some plants transplant better in late spring & summer. Check with your local nursery.

**Staking/Guying:**
- Apply only when tree won’t stand on its own. Check to make sure trunks are not being injured from attachments. Loosen if necessary.

**Health:**
- Check for animal and winter damage. Consult an ISA Certified Arborist for treatment.


**Safety:**
- Monitor year round, but especially after storms. Consult an ISA Certified Arborist for treatment.

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*This chart highlights the most favorable timing for the listed tree care activities.*

- Planting, fertilizing and pruning should be avoided during periods of weather extremes (e.g., drought or high winds).

*For more information including a list of ISA Certified Arborists, visit www.treesaregood.com.*

*† Contact a soil testing lab for a basic soil test. Local labs may be found online, through a local nursery or consult a Certified Arborist.*

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Funded in part by the USDA Forest Service – Northeastern Area

Designed & Digitally Illustrated by Andrew Rose, www.handeye.us