

# The Growing Scene, Inc.

Garden Center • Landscaping • Farm Stand

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## TIPS FOR GROWING EVERGREENS

### ENERGY SAVINGS BENEFITS

Evergreens placed to the west of a house can lower the summer roof and wall temperatures up to 20-40 degrees! As a windbreak in the winter there can be great fuel savings. For instance twice as much fuel is needed at 32 degrees to maintain a temperature when the wind is blowing at 12 miles per hour as at 3 miles per hour.

### PLANTING LOCATION

For a shady location or the north side of a house/building Yews or hemlocks are best. White Pines may also be a good choice. For partial shade Pfitzer Junipers would be appropriate.

Planting too close to the building is not a good idea. A planting bed of at least 6' is generally needed. Spruces, Pines and Firs are not usually used for foundation plantings. They need quite a wide area to grow in. A new building emits lime from the cement foundation. This is extremely detrimental to evergreens. The soil will need to be tested and treated accordingly.

### WATERING

This should be done during hot, dry summer months and in the end of October or November. The watering must be a slow and soaking type in order for the ground to absorb the moisture to a depth of 7-8". A slow stream for 2-3 hours should do this.

The total root system must not be allowed to get powder dry. If this happens most of the needles will turn brown and fall off. Root systems must have good drainage to prevent water from collecting around the base and roots. This will also cause the roots rot and the needles to drop off.

### MULCHING

This should be applied around the base all the way out to the edge of the canopy. Mulching two to three inches in depth is appropriate. The mulch will provide insulation from the cold for the ground around the tree in winter and keep it cooler during the hot summer days.

### TRIMMING

It is best to trim from June 15 to the fourth of July. If you want to control the shape of the evergreens, cut off half of the new growth.

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