

SBEL 1532 Horticulture and Nursery

TOPIC 7: **LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE**

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Maintenance Practices

1. Mulch

There are a number of advantages to mulching the soil after planting your tree or shrub.

For best results, it is important to choose good-quality mulch and to follow a few simple rules.

Maintenance Practices

Why mulch?

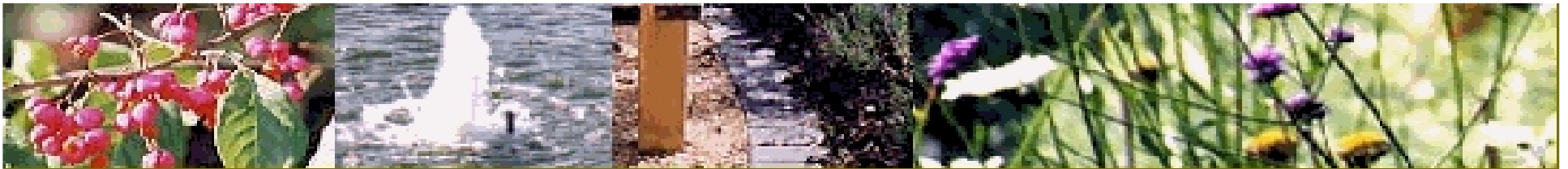
Benefits of Mulching

- it conserves soil moisture ;
- it controls weeds and other competing vegetation, including grass ;
- it buffers soil temperature extremes ;
- it adds nutrients and organic matter as it decomposes (if you use organic mulch) ;



Benefits of Mulching

- it prevents erosion and prevents a crust from forming on the soil surface ;
- it protects the roots when there is not enough WATER
- it improves the appearance of planting sites ;
- it protects the trunk from lawnmower and edge trimmer damage ;
- it provides shelter for helpful insects



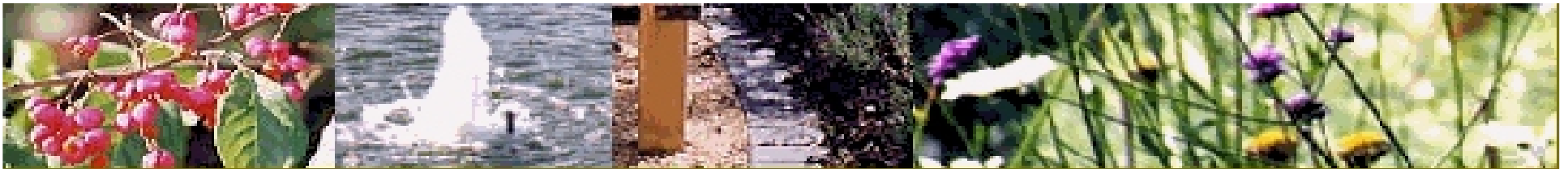
Selection of Mulching

- It is best to use well broken-down organic mulch (shredded bark, wood chips, coconut husk, etc.).
- Avoid using decorative stones and geotextile cloth and membranes, which interfere with gas exchanges between the soil and air.
- Make sure that the mulch doesn't contain any toxins and has a suitable pH.



Applying mulch

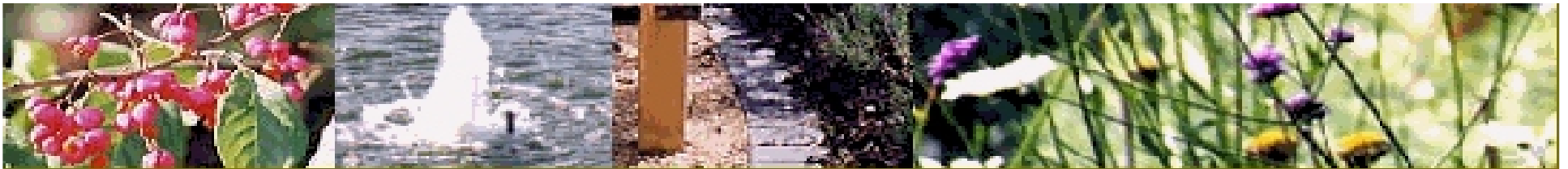
- Apply a layer of mulch 8 to 15 cm thick before it settles. If you are using hardwood bark, 5 cm is enough.
- Be careful not to stir the mulch into the soil.
- To prevent decay, keep the mulch 10 to 15 cm away from the collar on the trunk.
- Water the mulch to keep it in place.



2. Staking

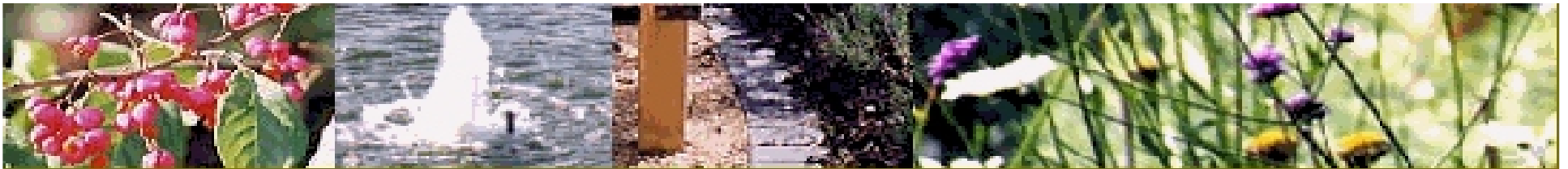
It is very important to decide whether your plants need to be staked or not, for staking a tree that doesn't need it can interfere with the growth of its trunk and root system.

Staking is needed in the specific situations.



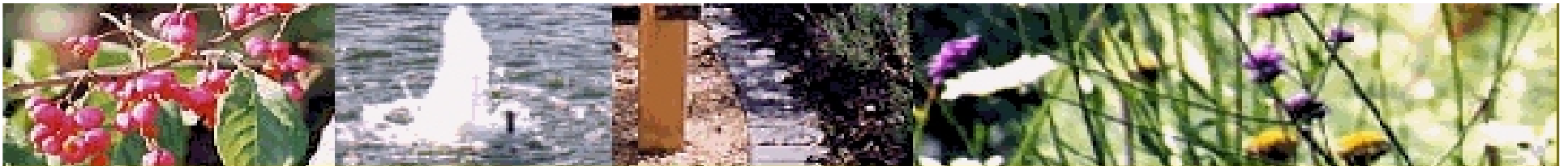
Staking is needed for the following

- for bare root trees
- for trees that can't stand up on their own
- when the soil is unstable, waterlogged or subject to seasonal flooding
- in very windy planting sites
- when the ball of soil surrounding the roots is very small in relation to the height of the tree or the width of its crown



Staking

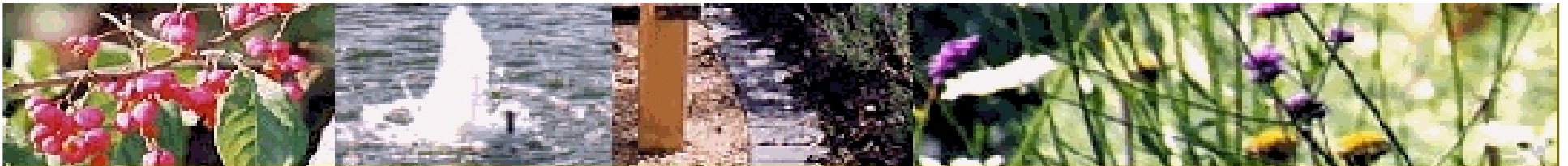
Proper staking will allow the trunk to move naturally, while keeping it sufficiently solid. This means using only one tie per stake. It is also important to choose your staking materials carefully.



Materials for Staking

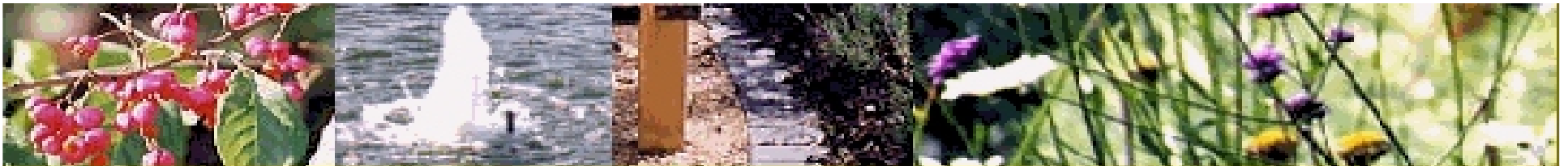
Materials to be used as ties

- elastic straps
- bicycle inner tubes
- nylon stockings
- strips of cotton fabric
- slings sold in gardening centres



Staking

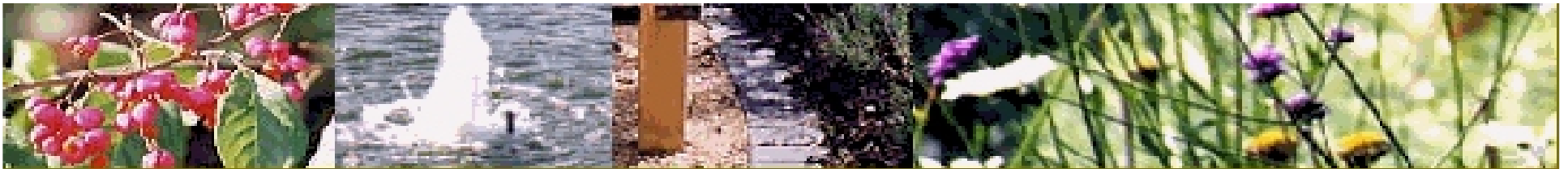
- Use wide straps to avoid injuring the trunk and to provide firm, but flexible support.
- Form a figure-8 with the strap (unless you are using a store-bought one) and tie it loosely to the stake.
- Never use wire, rope or wire encased in a garden hose.



Staking

Other Possible stakes:

metal bar or pipe
wooden stake

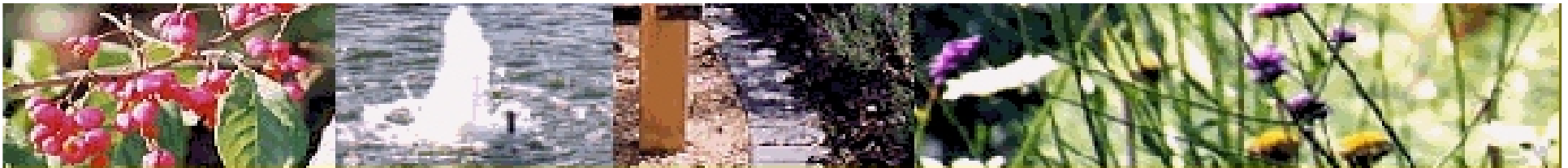


Day care for trees and shrubs

1. Watering

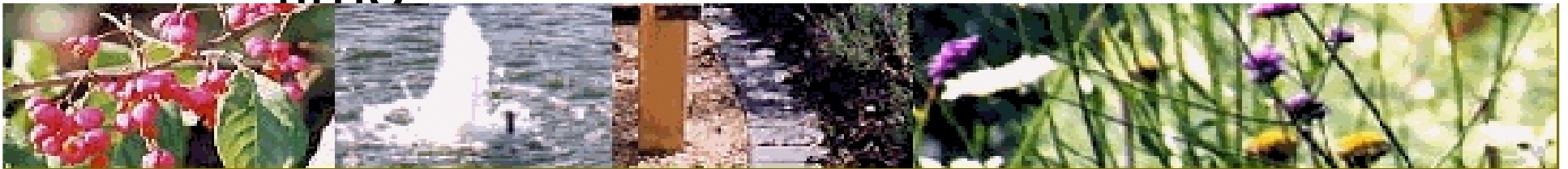
Adjust the frequency of watering to take account of the plant's needs and other conditions, including the type of soil, drainage, temperature, moisture, wind and rain .

- During the first week, water it daily.



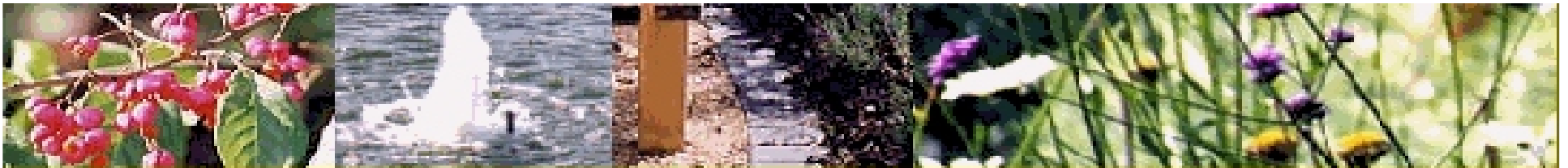
Watering

1. Water thoroughly and deeply, but be careful not to overwater it. If necessary, use trickle irrigation to avoid run-off.
2. During dry periods, water the soil thoroughly, at least once a week. Spray the foliage as well from time to time.



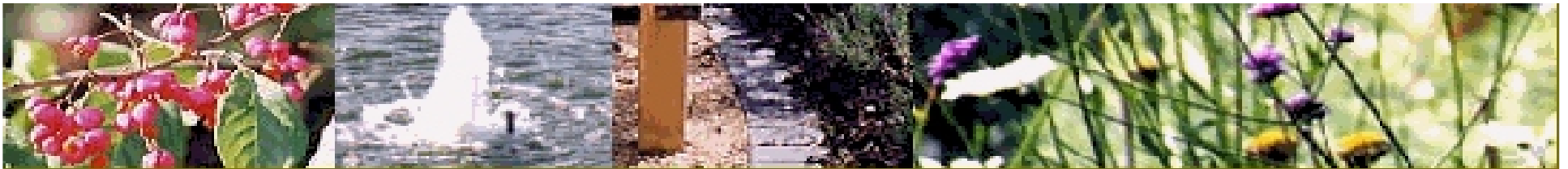
Watering

- 1. In dry season water thoroughly.**
- 2. Pay special attention to evergreens and plants that retain their leaves, which need to store up water for the dry season**



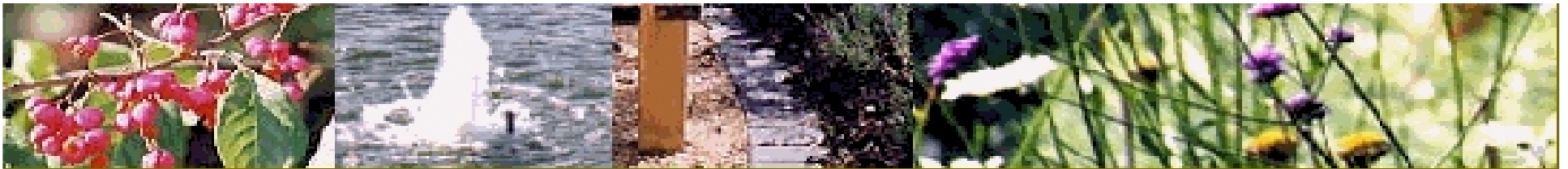
Inspection of Plants

- 1. Inspect your plant regularly for injuries, insect pests or diseases.**
- 2. Use biological control methods to address any problems.**



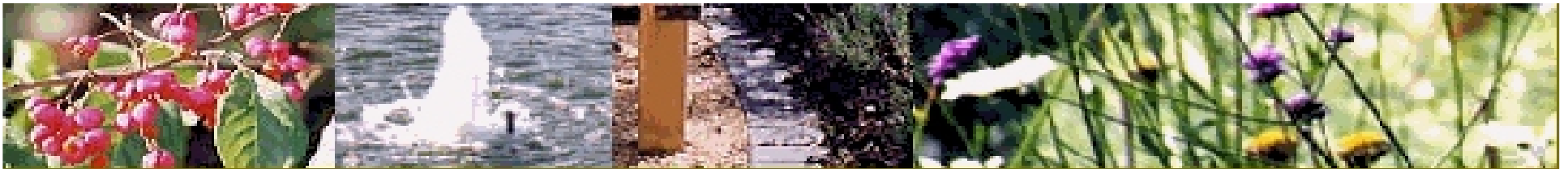
Pruning

1. **At planting time, only dead, diseased, broken or crossing branches should be removed.**
2. **After that, different kinds of pruning can be done.**



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THANK YOU.

