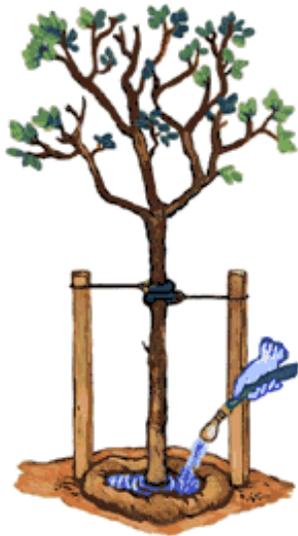




**CEDAR RIVER GARDEN CENTER**  
2889 PALO MARSH RD PALO, IA 52324  
**319.851.2161**  
WWW.CEDARRIVERGARDENCENTER.COM

## How Long Should I...



### Keep My Tree Staked

Staking a tree gives the root system a chance to establish itself in the soil and thereby provide the tree with a strong anchor. The stakes should not be used as a permanent fixture.

In general, the tree shouldn't need the support for more than a year. We often suggest removing them once the leaves have fallen in the fall. Once the leaves fall, the tree canopy no longer acts as a kite and doesn't catch full brunt of the wind. The wind will pass through the canopy branches. If you are in a particularly windy area, you can add the kit back on the following spring, but should remove it after your roots have settled in.

In fact, stakes left too long can actually hinder development. A tree needs to sway freely in the wind in order to grow stronger trunks, similar to our core muscles as humans.



### Use a Tree Guard

A tree guard is an incredibly useful tool. The guard is most beneficial to protect the bark and vascular system of the tree from rodent, rabbit, trimmer, and winter sun scald. Depending on the height of your tree and the height of your guard it may also protect from deer rub.

You might be thinking, winter sun scald?

Maples are prone to something called frost cracking. This occurs when the sun heats one side of the tree faster than the other causing the movement of nutrients to start flowing faster than the other side. This rapid expansion and contraction splits the trunk. A tree guard will help keep the sun rays off the tree and at a more even temperature.

Our furry foes should not be ignored in this equation either. A rabbit can girdle an entire immature tree trunk in one evening. They are most likely to aim for our trees when their other food supply is dwindling, or at a low. This typically occurs in winter.

You should periodically remove your guard to do a maintenance check. Removing any weed competition and take a peek for insect and fungus build-up. Never allow your tree to grow into your guard. This can cause serious damage to your tree by disrupting the vascular system.



## Fertilize My Tree/Shrubs

All fertilizing for woody plant materials should stop by mid-August. By mid-

August trees and shrubs are working on going dormant for the year. They need to be able to naturally slow the movement of their nutrients to stop any new tender growth emerging before our cold winter months begin.

We DO always suggest using a low nitrogen root simulator through October.

The phosphorous is important to help settle in the roots and prevent transplant shock.

## Water My Plant Material

You should water your plant material all the way through its first season. The second season the watering will be less, but should be checked periodically during a hot dry streak or super windy days.

When you purchase a tree or shrub at Cedar River Garden Center we give you a tree guarantee slip. On the back of that slip are some excellent care tips.

We have been receiving calls from customers with nursery stock that struggled



through that hot spell. Once we dug a little deeper we figured out they were getting a light watering every day.

Trees, shrubs, and perennials need a deep water less often. They need their root ball moist to the base, and then allowed to dry, then repeat.

Tips:

- \* Check your soil every two days
- \* Check your soil at a depth of 3" deep. If you feel moisture, you can wait.
- \* Do not water in the middle of the day
- \* Do not spray the canopy of your tree or shrub
- \* Consider your soil type: clay vs. sandy
- \* Set your hose on half speed at the base of your tree or shrub
- \* Water your tree for 10-15 minutes
- \* Shrubs 3-5 minutes
- \* Perennials 1-2 minutes

IMPORTANT: Over watering can be as detrimental as under watering, ALWAYS check your soil prior to watering.

---



*Sypmtoms of Early Blight*

## Beat Blight

Re-posted from 2019, because let's be real! Blight is always a big problem in our Iowa gardens.

Keep your eyes sharp! If you see these symptoms, you may be battling Early Blight. Dark, concentric spots (brown to black), form on lower leaves and stems. Early blight will have obvious rings within the spots.

It's most common in humid weather (Check)! It often strikes after a period of heavy rainfall

(Check)!

The following tips are from Iowa State Extension:

- Unfortunately, there are

no  
tomato  
varieties  
resistant  
to  
the  
tomato  
blights.

- Rotate  
crops  
so  
that  
tomatoes  
and  
other  
solanaceous  
crops  
(potatoes,  
peppers,  
and  
eggplants)  
are  
not  
grown  
in  
the  
same  
area  
for  
at  
least  
3  
or  
4  
years.
- There  
is  
no  
home  
garden  
treatment  
that  
effectively  
kills  
the  
soil  
pathogens  
in  
the  
soil.
- Adequate

spacing  
allows  
good  
air  
movement  
and  
promotes  
rapid  
drying  
of  
plant  
foliage.

- Grow  
tomato  
plants  
in  
wire  
cages.  
The  
foliage  
of  
tomatoes  
growing  
in  
a  
cage  
will  
dry  
more  
rapidly  
than  
those  
sprawling  
on  
the  
ground.  
Gardeners  
can  
buy  
wire  
tomato  
cages  
at  
garden  
centers  
or  
make  
their  
own  
using  
concrete  
reinforcing

wire  
or  
hog  
wire.

- In early June, apply a 2 to 3 inch layer of mulch around each tomato plant. Shredded leaves, dry grass clippings, and straw are excellent mulches. The mulch reduces the splashing of fungal spores onto plant foliage. Placing the mulch around plants in early June allows the

soil  
to  
warm  
up  
in  
the  
spring.

- Avoid wetting tomato foliage when watering.
- While cultural practices may help control tomato blights, fungicides are often needed. Apply fungicides (chlorothalonil, maneb, or copper-based fungicides) at 7 to 14 day intervals beginning 2 to 4 weeks after transplanting. Thorough coverage is essential. Be

sure  
to  
spray  
both  
the  
upper  
and  
lower  
leaf  
surfaces  
as  
well  
as  
the  
centers  
of  
the  
plants.  
Spray  
to  
the  
point  
of  
runoff.  
If  
blight  
occurs,  
remove  
and  
destroy  
infected  
leaves  
as  
they  
appear.  
Prompt  
removal  
of  
infected  
leaves  
may  
slow  
the  
progress  
of  
the,  
blights.  
At  
the  
end  
of  
the

gardening season, remove and destroy all infected tomato plants. Clean up and dispose of as much tomato plant debris as possible.

Read all labels prior to any chemical application.

---

## Plant Highlight:

### **Bronze Peacock Roger's Flower**

This species of plant is named after the Naval Commander who discovered this plant in 1856. This unique part-shade tolerant plant can tolerate a moist soil and in fact doesn't prefer a drought year.

'Bronze Peacock' will be 2' wide and 3' tall including the pink flower. Deer resistant, slow growing, and a unique dark leaf texture make this plant desirable for many yards.



## Tree Highlight:

### **Japanese Tree Lilac**

You may have noticed this tree currently blooming out and about.



Japanese Tree Lilacs are a personal favorite of mine. The unique bloom is backed by excellent cold hardiness and a tolerance to poor soils. 20' tall and 20' wide.

---

## Shrub Highlight:

### Summer Snowflake Viburnum

A beautiful medium-size shrub with a broadly rounded form. The tiered horizontal branches magnificently display the showy white flower clusters. Highly ornamental red fruit develops in the fall.

Zone: 5

8' tall and 4-6' wide



Picture and information found on [Monrovia.com](https://www.monrovia.com)



[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by  
[GoDaddy Email Marketing](#)®