



## Planting a Christensen's plant

After you got the job and maybe designed it, too - you want it to look good for years to come. There are many ways to achieve this goal.

First is addressing any issues with the planting site and picking the right plant for the right spot, of course your customer has a lot to do with this. Don't give in to your customer's crazy ideas, if it is not going to look good in the end, DON'T DO IT! Whose idea was it to plant a spruce tree in front of the picture window? Looks good at 5 or 6', but not so good at 20-30'.



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Let's fast-forward to another important process. Should I apply fertilizer and what kind? As a buyer for Christensen's it is difficult for me to tell you what to use, everyone has a favorite product. I try to stock what many customers are using or what I like to use when I plant in my yard. I strongly recommend you make it a good practice to integrate fertilizer into every new planting. Here are some tips.

Espoma has a variety of organic fertilizers that are great for new planting. It is available to the plant right away because it does not need to break down (like chemical fertilizers), but it only lasts in the soil for a short period. A slow release fertilizer (Florikote or Osmocote) is a good idea to add for long term fertilization. They come in formulations that can last months to keep your plants vigorous and strong for a good start to get through that tough transplanting stress and winter.

Liquid fertilizers (ROOTS plus Iron or Fertlome) are taken up by the plant immediately but have no longevity in the soil. These can also be applied after planting or on established plants to give them a boost in root growth.

Planting tablets are an efficient and easy way to send your crew out with simple directions. "Place 3 tablets in every hole"- no measuring. No-brainer!

Now, if you only remember one thing in this article, please remember this. All the fertilizer and water you apply at planting is not going to help a plant that did not have a tarp on it when it traveled to the job site (even if it is just down the road).

Here are another couple products that will help you be successful: Tregator bags and Soil Moist granules. Tregator bags release water slowly over the root system giving the plant a deeper soaking. These can be reused for the next job as well after the plants are established. Soil Moist is great for those larger plants especially or where consistent watering is not available. They actually attach to the roots and absorb water, releasing it when the plant needs it.

I hope this was helpful! - Dan