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Planting & Care Guide for Ginkgo Biloba

We are thrilled that you've chosen Ginkgo biloba, commonly known as the Ginkgo or Maidenhair Tree, for your landscaping project. This extraordinary tree, known for its rich history and remarkable resilience, brings a unique blend of ancient charm and natural beauty to any garden or landscape. With its distinct fan-shaped leaves and striking autumnal colors, Ginkgo biloba is an exceptional choice for those seeking both ornamental appeal and practical benefits.

In this guide, you'll discover detailed instructions and expert tips on every aspect of caring for your Ginkgo biloba. From selecting the perfect planting site and preparing your soil to ensuring long-term health through proper maintenance, this guide is designed to equip you with all the knowledge you need to nurture a thriving Ginkgo tree that will stand tall for generations.

Before you embark on planting, we encourage you to read through each section of this guide thoroughly. Understanding the specific needs and care requirements of your Ginkgo tree is essential for a successful planting experience. By taking the time to prepare and plan, you'll create the ideal conditions for your tree to flourish, avoiding common mistakes and setting the stage for lasting growth.

At Evergreen Trees Direct, we are dedicated to supporting you throughout your gardening journey. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us. Your satisfaction and the well-being of your Ginkgo biloba are our top priorities.

Let's begin this exciting journey to enhance your landscape with your new Ginkgo biloba!

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WELCOME TO YOUR GINKGO BILOBA CARE GUIDE

Thank you for choosing Evergreen Trees Direct for your landscaping needs. Ginkgo biloba, commonly known as the Ginkgo or Maidenhair Tree, is a unique and ancient tree species that has graced our planet for millions of years. Revered as a living fossil, the Ginkgo is celebrated for its remarkable resilience and distinctive fan-shaped leaves. Not only does this tree add ornamental beauty to any landscape, but it is also highly valued for its medicinal properties.

This care guide provides you with detailed instructions and expert tips on every aspect of caring for your Ginkgo biloba, from the initial planting to long-term maintenance. We are committed to equipping you with all the necessary knowledge to cultivate a majestic and healthy tree that will enhance your garden for generations to come.

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GETTING STARTED

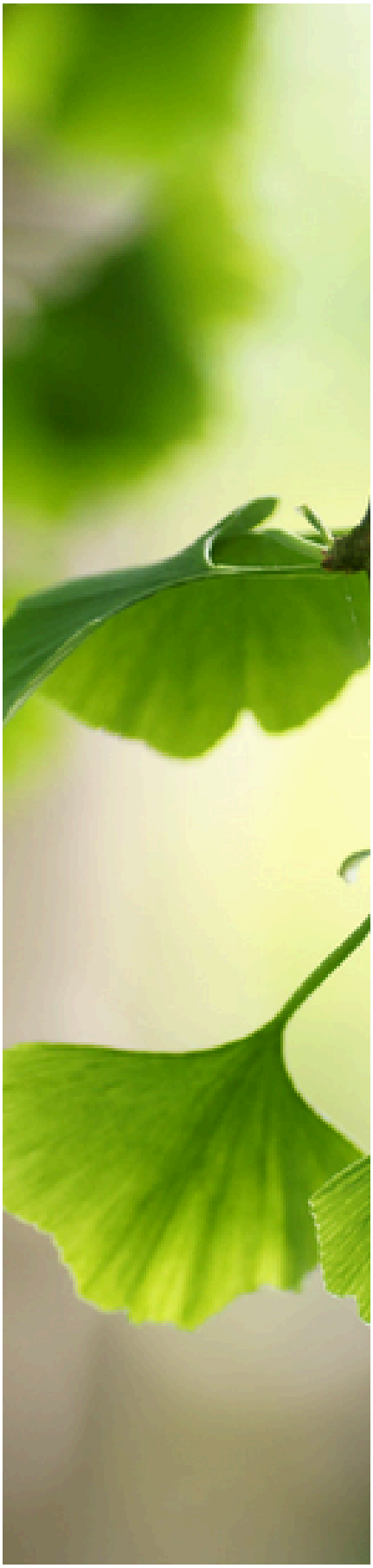
Welcome to Your Journey with Ginkgo Biloba. It's commonly known as the Ginkgo or Maidenhair Tree, is not just a tree—it's a living testament to Earth's ancient history. This unique and resilient species has graced our planet for millions of years, earning its place as a "living fossil." With its distinct fan-shaped leaves and striking golden fall color, Ginkgo Biloba is highly valued for both its ornamental beauty and its renowned medicinal properties. As you embark on your journey with Ginkgo Biloba, this comprehensive guide is designed to support you every step of the way.

Before you begin planting, take the time to read through each section of this guide. We cover everything from site preparation and planting techniques to ongoing care and maintenance. By following these guidelines, you'll be well on your way to cultivating a thriving Ginkgo Biloba that will enhance your landscape for years to come.

At Evergreen Trees Direct, our commitment is to your success. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to reach out to us. We are here to ensure that your experience with Ginkgo Biloba is both rewarding and successful.

Warm regards,
Arabella Fox & Luke Williams
Founders, Evergreen Trees Direct
Contact Us: (03) 7042 3318

1. Preparing Your Site for Your New Trees



Choosing the Right Location

- Light Requirements: Ginkgo Biloba thrives in full sun to partial shade. It requires plenty of sunlight to maintain its dense foliage and promote flowering.
- Soil Requirements: Prefers well-draining soil. It is adaptable to a range of soil types but performs best in fertile, slightly acidic to neutral soils.

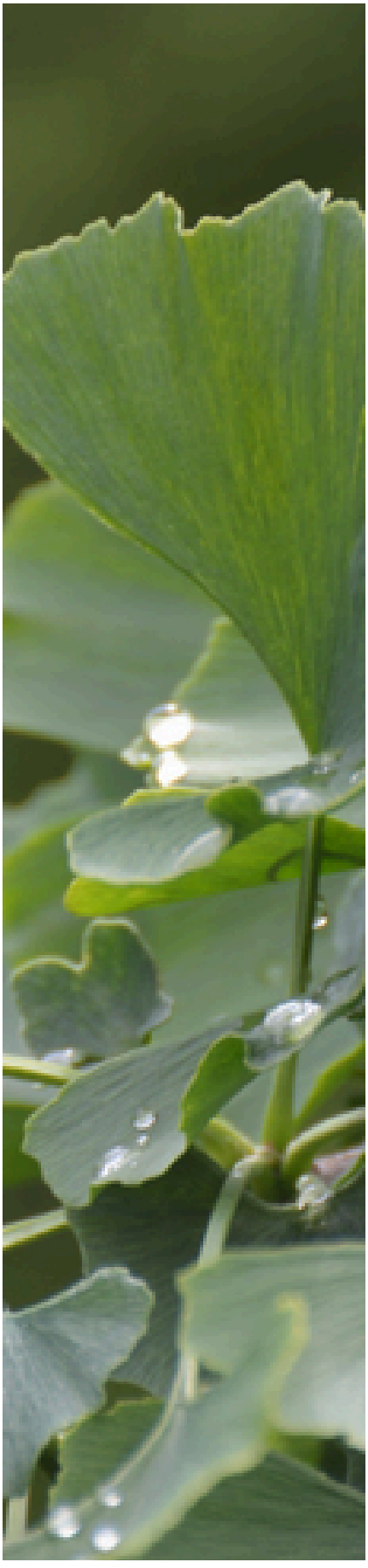
Spacing Considerations:

- Feature Planting: Space plants approximately 10 to 12 meters apart to allow sufficient room for the tree to develop its mature canopy.
- Ornamental Planting: Ensure at least 10–15 meters of space from other major plants or structures to allow for its full growth potential.

Site Preparation Steps

- Clear the Area: Remove weeds and any debris to prevent competition and ensure optimal growth.
- Soil Testing: Test the soil pH; Ginkgo Biloba performs best in slightly acidic to neutral soil. Amend accordingly.
- Enhance Soil: Work in a generous amount of organic matter to improve soil fertility and drainage, which is crucial for the health and growth of the Ginkgo Biloba.

2. Planting Your Trees / Hole Preparation



Root Ball Dimensions

When planting, we recommend digging a hole that is at least 10% larger than the size of your pot, and teasing the rootball before planting to promote better root growth.

- 40cm Pot: 44 x 38.5 cm
- 45L Bag: 41.8 x 41.8 cm
- 50cm Squat Pot: 49.5 x 34.1 cm
- 50cm Pot: 49.5 x 35.2 cm
- 70L Pot: 55 x 41.8 cm
- 75L Bag: 55 x 48.4 cm
- 90L Pot: 59.4 x 44 cm
- 100L Bag: 50.6 x 52.8 cm
- 100L Squat Bag: 58.3 x 49.5 cm
- 100L Pot: 66 x 49.5 cm
- 150L Bag: 66 x 55 cm
- 155L Pot: 74.8 x 52.8 cm
- 200L Bag: 71.5 x 60.5 cm
- 280L Pot: 91.3 x 55 cm
- 300L Bag: 88 x 63.8 cm
- 400L Bag: 99 x 66 cm
- 500L Bag: 122 x 66 cm
- 1000L Bag: 146.3 x 71.5 cm
- 2000L Bag: 176 x 82.5 cm

Steps for Planting

- Prepare the Site: Dig a hole that is twice as wide and as deep as the root ball to allow for root expansion.
- Remove from Container: Gently extract the shrub, being careful not to harm the roots.
- Position the Shrub: Set the shrub in the hole's center, making sure it's level with the ground.
- Backfill the Hole: Refill the hole with soil, pressing down around the roots to secure and remove air gaps.
- Watering: Soak the soil thoroughly to ensure good root-soil contact and eliminate air pockets.

3. Watering Instructions



Proper watering is essential for the successful establishment and growth of your Ginkgo Biloba. Adhering to the following guidelines will help ensure your shrub's health and vigor:

Immediately After Planting:

- Thorough Watering: Water thoroughly right after planting to help settle the soil and eliminate any air pockets around the roots.

First Week:

- Daily Watering: Water daily for the first week. Use enough water to moisten the soil to the depth of the root ball.
- Optimal Timing: Early mornings or late afternoons are the best times to water to minimize evaporation and ensure the tree absorbs the maximum amount of water.

Weeks 2-4:

- Reduced Frequency: Reduce watering to 2-3 times per week. Check the soil moisture regularly to ensure it remains consistently moist but not waterlogged.

Months 2-3:

- Weekly Deep Watering: Water deeply once a week. During hot or dry weather, increase the frequency to twice a week.
- Encouraging Deep Roots: Deep watering encourages the roots to grow deeper into the soil, providing better stability and drought resistance.

After 3 Months:

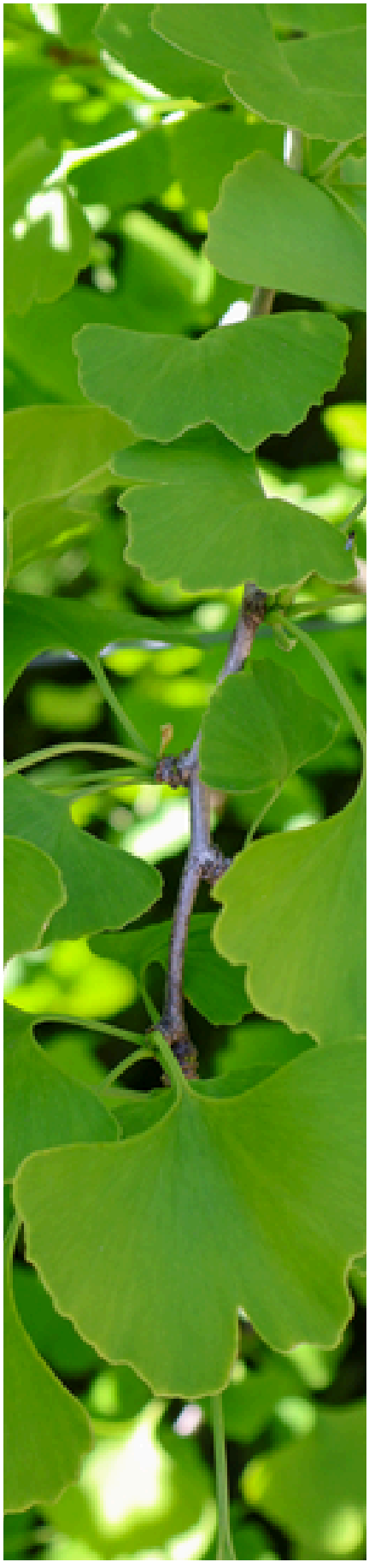
- Ongoing Deep Watering: Continue to water deeply once a week until the tree is fully established, which typically takes one year.
- Adjust Based on Conditions: Adjust watering frequency based on rainfall, soil type, and temperature.

Monitoring Soil Moisture:

- Soil Check: Insert a finger or a soil moisture meter about 5-10 cm into the soil. If the soil feels dry at this depth, it’s time to water.



4. Mulching



Mulching is a key practice for maintaining soil moisture, regulating soil temperature, and preventing weed growth around your Ginkgo Biloba. Here's how to effectively apply and manage mulch for your shrub:

Applying Mulch:

- After Watering: Apply a 5-7 cm layer of organic mulch around the base of the shrub.
- Proper Gap: Ensure there is a 5-10 cm gap between the mulch and the trunk to prevent rot and disease.

Types of Mulch:

- Organic Materials: Use materials such as wood chips, bark, or compost. These decompose over time, enriching the soil with nutrients.
- Avoid Inorganic: Do not use inorganic materials like rubber or stones, as they can negatively impact soil temperature and moisture levels.

Mulching Benefits:

- Moisture Retention: Mulch reduces water evaporation from the soil, keeping it consistently moist.
- Weed Suppression: Acts as a barrier, preventing weed seeds from germinating.
- Temperature Regulation: Mulch insulates the soil, keeping it cooler in summer and warmer in winter, thus protecting the roots from temperature extremes.

Maintaining Mulch:

- Check Depth: Periodically check the depth of the mulch and add more to maintain a 5-7 cm layer.
- Stir Occasionally: Stir the mulch to prevent it from compacting, which helps continue to allow air and water penetration.

Annual Mulch Refresh:

- Replace Old Mulch: Each spring, remove any mulch that has fully decomposed and replace it with a fresh layer to continue providing the benefits of mulch and improving soil health and structure.

5. Fertilization

Fertilization is crucial for promoting the health, vigor, and prolific flowering of your Ginkgo Biloba. Appropriate and timely fertilization boosts the plant's overall growth, enhances its lush foliage, and supports abundant blooming. To ensure your Ginkgo Biloba receives the best nutrition:

When to Fertilize:

- Spring Fertilization: Apply a balanced fertilizer in early spring as new growth begins to encourage robust development and the initiation of flowering buds.
- Summer Fertilization: A second application in mid-summer supports prolonged foliage density and health, especially during peak growing seasons, and helps sustain continuous flowering.

Type of Fertilizer:

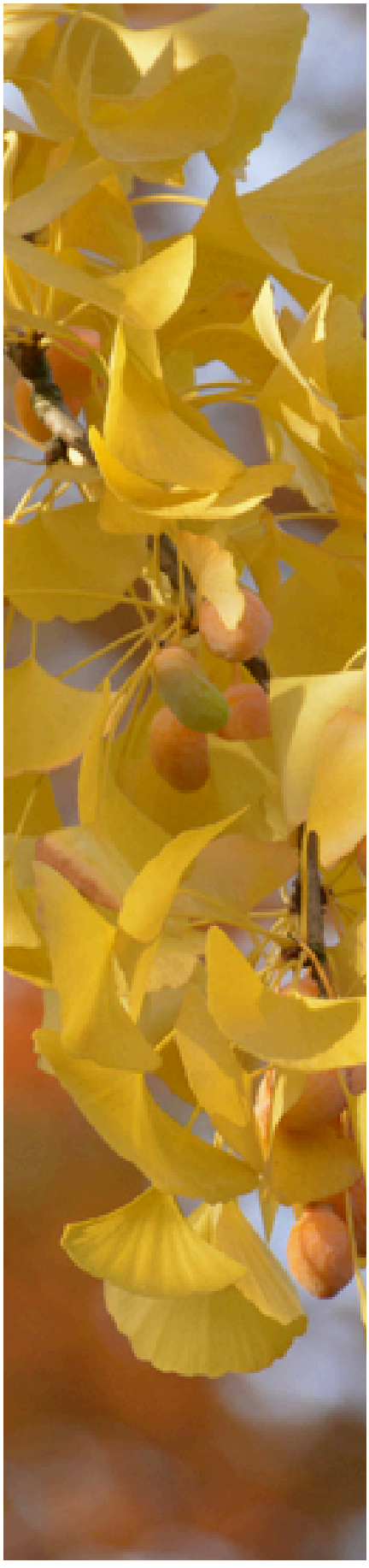
- Balanced, Slow-Release Fertilizer: Use a balanced, slow-release fertilizer suitable for flowering shrubs (e.g., N-P-K ratio of 10-10-10 or similar) to promote healthy growth and prolific blooming.
- Organic Options: Organic options like well-rotted compost or aged manure can also be beneficial, enhancing soil structure, improving nutrient availability, and supporting abundant flowering.

Application Instructions:

- Even Distribution: Scatter the fertilizer evenly around the base of the shrub, starting a few inches from the trunk to avoid direct contact with the root collar.
- Extent of Application: Extend the application to the drip line, where the tips of the branches are, to ensure nutrients are readily available where the roots are most active.
- Watering In: After applying, water the area well to help the fertilizer penetrate the soil and ensure nutrients are available for uptake, enhancing overall growth and encouraging prolific flowering.

Encouraging Prolific Foliage:

- Fertilization plays a vital role in supporting the lush, vibrant foliage of your Ginkgo Biloba. By providing the necessary nutrients, you can enhance the tree's ability to produce dense and healthy leaves throughout the growing season.



6. Encouraging Prolific Foliage and Flowering



Promoting prolific foliage and flowering in your Ginkgo Biloba is crucial for maximizing its ornamental value. Proper fertilization, watering, and pruning play key roles in enhancing its growth and bloom.

Fertilization for Foliage and Flowers:

- Spring Fertilization: Apply a balanced fertilizer (e.g., N-P-K ratio of 10-10-10) in early spring to stimulate new growth and flower bud development.
- Summer Fertilization: A second application in mid-summer supports ongoing foliage density and bloom production, ensuring continuous and vigorous growth.

Watering Practices:

- Consistent Moisture: Maintain consistent soil moisture, especially during the growing season. Avoid letting the soil dry out completely, as this can stress the plant and reduce flowering.
- Deep Watering: Deep watering encourages root growth and ensures the plant receives adequate moisture, supporting both foliage and flower production.

Pruning for Health and Growth:

- After Blooming: Prune after the flowering period to shape the plant and remove spent blooms, promoting new growth and preparing the plant for the next blooming cycle.
- Regular Maintenance: Regularly remove dead, damaged, or diseased branches to maintain plant health and vigor, which in turn enhances foliage density and flowering potential.

7. Pruning and Shaping

Pruning and shaping are crucial for maintaining the structural integrity and aesthetic appearance of your Ginkgo Biloba. Regular pruning not only enhances its form but also promotes a healthier, denser foliage and more prolific flowering.



When to Prune:

- Optimal Timing: The best time to prune is in late winter or early spring before new growth starts. This helps prevent stress and maximizes the spring growth potential.
- Maintenance Pruning: Light pruning should be conducted after the flowering period to maintain the tree's desired shape and remove any dead or damaged branches.

Pruning Instructions:

- Remove Unwanted Branches: Trim away any dead, diseased, or overgrown branches to enhance sunlight penetration and air circulation within the shrub.
- Stress Prevention: Avoid excessive pruning; focus instead on maintaining the natural dense form of the shrub.
- Technique: Use clean, sharp tools to make precise cuts. Always cut just above a bud or lateral branch to direct new growth outward or upward, maintaining the shrub’s form.

Shaping Tips:

- Desired Form: To maintain and enhance the natural form of Ginkgo Biloba, prune back to a downward-facing bud or branch. This directs the new growth to fill out the desired shape.
- Guiding Growth: Use stakes if necessary, especially for young or tall specimens in exposed sites, to prevent wind damage and promote vertical growth. Adjust ties as needed to prevent damage to the bark.

8. Pest and Disease Management

Proper pest and disease management is crucial to keeping your Ginkgo Biloba healthy and vibrant. Regular monitoring and timely interventions can prevent minor issues from escalating into significant problems. Here are strategies for managing common pests and diseases for this species:

Common Pests:

- Ginkgo Scale (Pseudaulacaspis cockerelli): Remove and dispose of infested branches to reduce scale populations. Use dormant oil in the late winter or early spring to smother scale eggs and young insects before they become established. For severe infestations, insecticidal soaps can be applied during the growing season.
- Aphids: Ladybugs and lacewings naturally feed on aphids. Apply insecticidal soap or neem oil to control aphid populations.
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Common Diseases:

- Root Rot (Phytophthora spp.): Plant Ginkgo Biloba in well-drained soil to avoid waterlogging.
- Leaf Spot (Various fungi): Space trees properly to promote good air circulation, reducing humidity around the foliage.
- Canker Diseases (Various pathogens): Ensure the tree is healthy and well-watered, as stressed trees are more susceptible to cankers.

Prevention Strategies:

- Airflow: Maintain adequate spacing for air circulation.
- Pruning: Regularly remove dead or infected branches.
- Healthy Practices: Fertilize, mulch, and water consistently.
- Clean Surroundings: Keep the area clear of debris.

Monitoring and Prevention:

- Regular Inspections: Check frequently for signs of pests or disease.
- Early Intervention: Address issues promptly.
- Appropriate Treatments: Use insecticides and fungicides as needed, following instructions.



9. Staking Your Tree

Staking your Ginkgo Biloba provides essential support, especially when young or planted in exposed or windy areas. Proper staking ensures stability and proper growth orientation, preventing leaning and root stress. Here's how to properly stake your Ginkgo Biloba:

When to Stake:

- Timing: Stake the plant at the time of planting, especially if the location is windy or the plant shows signs of leaning.

Staking Instructions:

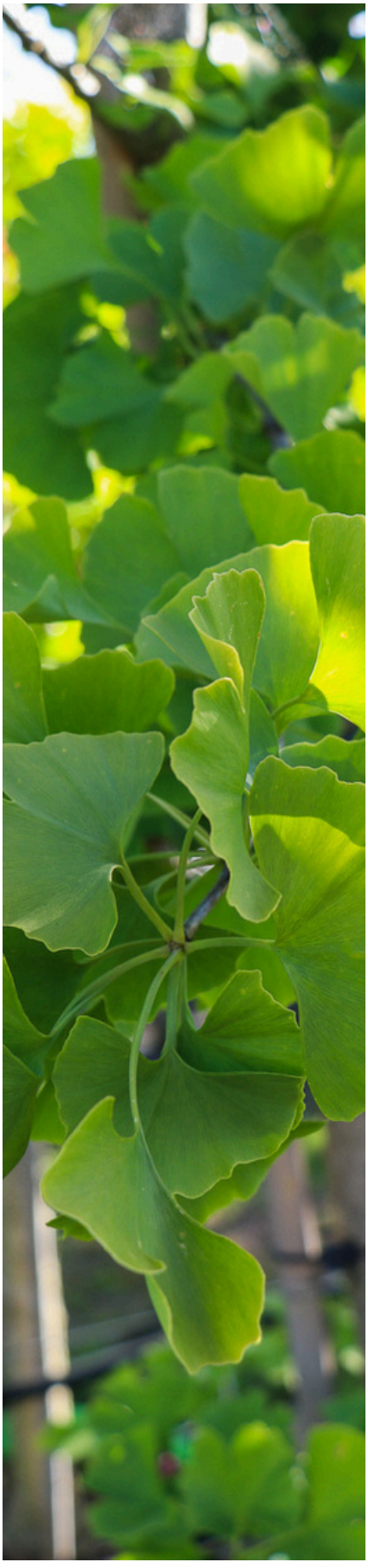
- Number of Stakes: Generally, use two stakes, positioning them on opposite sides of the plant to ensure balanced support.
- Attachment: Use soft, wide tree ties to connect the stakes to the trunk. Ensure ties are loose enough to allow for natural movement but tight enough to provide support.
- Regular Checks: Inspect and adjust the ties every few months to ensure they are not too tight and to accommodate the plant's growth.

Staking Duration:

- Observation Period: Stakes are usually needed for the first 1-2 growing seasons until the plant's root system is sufficiently developed.
- Monitoring: Regularly check the stability of the plant and adjust or remove stakes as the plant becomes self-supporting.

Additional Tips:

- Stake Height: Ensure the stakes are tall enough to support the plant effectively without over-constraining it.
- Avoid Damage: Be cautious to avoid ties that can girdle or damage the bark as the plant grows.
- Professional Advice: If unsure about staking techniques, consult with a horticulturist or arborist to get advice tailored to your specific environmental conditions and plant size.



10. Long-Term Maintenance

Maintaining the lush and healthy growth of your Ginkgo Biloba requires consistent care throughout the seasons. This streamlined guide provides key steps to ensure your plant remains vibrant year-round:



Annual Care Routine:

- Spring: Apply fertilizer, prune, and inspect for pests to promote new growth.
- Summer: Ensure consistent watering to support vigorous growth and flowering.
- Autumn: Mulch to retain moisture, reduce watering as growth slows, and clear fallen leaves.
- Winter: Protect from extreme cold and check for damage due to frost.

Growth Monitoring:

- Visual Checks: Observe changes in leaf color and branch structure to adjust care as needed.

Tips for Long-Term Maintenance:

- Regular Care: Consistently water, fertilize, and prune to maintain health.
- Seasonal Adjustments: Adapt care routines to weather changes to protect and optimize plant health.
- Pest Management: Monitor and address infestations promptly to prevent damage.
- Winter Protection: Use frost cloth or move potted plants to shelter if extreme cold threatens.
- Structural Support: Stake young plants if exposed to persistent winds; adjust ties to avoid trunk damage.

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THANK YOU!

Thank you for choosing Evergreen Trees Direct for your landscaping needs. We hope this comprehensive guide helps you successfully plant and care for your Ginkgo Biloba. Remember, a healthy plant begins with proper planting and consistent care. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

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FINAL NOTE

Your Ginkgo Biloba will bring vibrant color and interest to your landscape. With the right care and attention, it will thrive and become a standout feature in your garden for years to come. We appreciate your trust in Evergreen Trees Direct and look forward to assisting you with all your gardening needs.

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ABOUT EVERGREEN TREES DIRECT

As an award-winning online nursery, we specialize in supplying advanced and mature trees. Our reputation for excellence is built on delivering premium quality stock to some of Australia's most prestigious residential and commercial landscaping projects.

At Evergreen Trees Direct, we excel in understanding the intricacies of selecting the perfect trees for your local environment. Our experienced national logistics network ensures that established trees are delivered in impeccable condition, maintaining their quality from nursery to site.

Leading landscapers, builders, and developers trust us with their projects because of our commitment to excellence. Evergreen Trees Direct is not just your tree supplier; we are your project allies, ensuring seamless organization, expert logistics, and the highest standard of tree quality for your landscape.

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