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Planting & Care Guide for Magnolia x soulangeana

We are delighted that you've chosen Magnolia x soulangeana, commonly known as the Saucer Magnolia, for your garden. This stunning deciduous magnolia hybrid is celebrated for its magnificent early spring blooms and elegant form. With its large, saucer-shaped flowers, the Saucer Magnolia brings a burst of color and fragrance, marking the end of winter and the beginning of a vibrant spring.

This guide provides detailed instructions and tips on every aspect of caring for your Magnolia x soulangeana, from site selection and soil preparation to ongoing maintenance. Our goal is to provide you with all the necessary information to cultivate a thriving, beautiful tree that will enhance your landscape for many years.

Before you start planting, we encourage you to read through each section of this guide carefully. Familiarize yourself with the specific needs and care requirements of your Saucer Magnolia. Proper preparation is key and will lay the foundation for a successful planting experience, helping you avoid common pitfalls.

At Evergreen Trees Direct, we are committed to supporting you every step of the way. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Your satisfaction and the health of your tree are our top priorities.

Let's begin this exciting journey to enhance your landscape with your new Magnolia x soulangeana!

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WELCOME TO YOUR MAGNOLIA X SOULANGEANA CARE GUIDE

Thank you for choosing Evergreen Trees Direct for your landscaping needs. Magnolia x soulangeana, commonly known as the Saucer Magnolia, is celebrated for its stunning early spring blooms, large ovate leaves, and broad spreading habit. This deciduous hybrid, a cross between Magnolia denudata and Magnolia liliiflora, brings a burst of color and fragrance to temperate gardens just after the winter months.

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

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GETTING STARTED

Welcome to your journey with Magnolia x soulangeana, commonly known as the Saucer Magnolia. This beautiful and widely admired deciduous magnolia hybrid is celebrated for its stunning early spring blooms. As a hybrid of Magnolia denudata and Magnolia liliiflora, the Saucer Magnolia brings a burst of color and fragrance to temperate gardens after the winter months.

The Saucer Magnolia is perfect for adding a splash of color and elegance to any landscape. Its large, saucer-shaped flowers and lush foliage make it a standout choice for both garden enthusiasts and landscape designers. This guide will provide you with comprehensive information on planting and caring for your Saucer Magnolia, ensuring it thrives and enhances your garden.

Before planting, please read through each section of this guide to familiarize yourself with the specific needs and care requirements of your Magnolia. Proper preparation is key to successful planting and will help you avoid common pitfalls.

At Evergreen Trees Direct, we are committed to supporting you every step of the way. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, do not hesitate to contact us. Your satisfaction and the health of your Magnolia x soulangeana are our top priorities.

Warm regards,
Arabella Fox & Luke Williams
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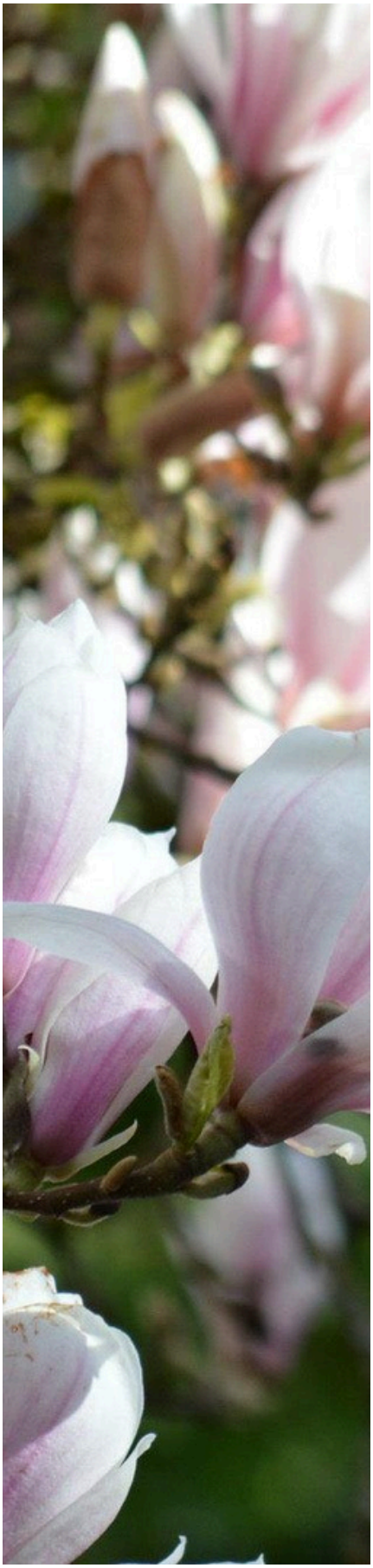
1. Preparing Your Site for Your New Trees



Choosing the Right Location

- Light Requirements: Saucer Magnolia 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.

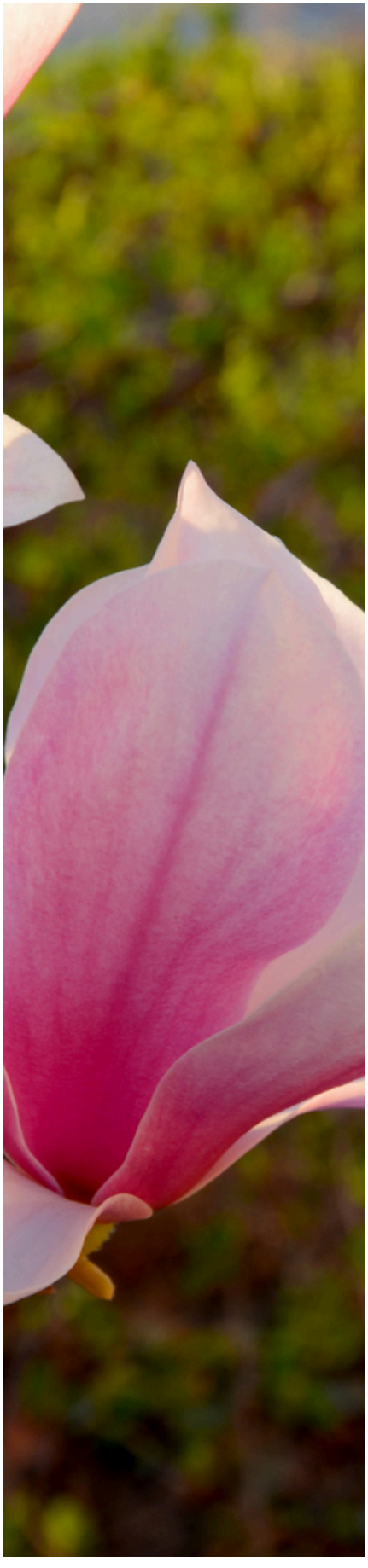
Spacing Considerations:

- Ornamental Planting: Ensure at least 3–4 meters of space from other major plants or structures. This spacing allows the tree to spread its branches fully without competition for light and nutrients.

Site Preparation Steps

- Clear the Area: Remove weeds and any debris to prevent competition and ensure optimal growth.
- Soil Testing: Test the soil pH; Saucer Magnolia 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 Saucer Magnolia .

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 Saucer Magnolia. 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:

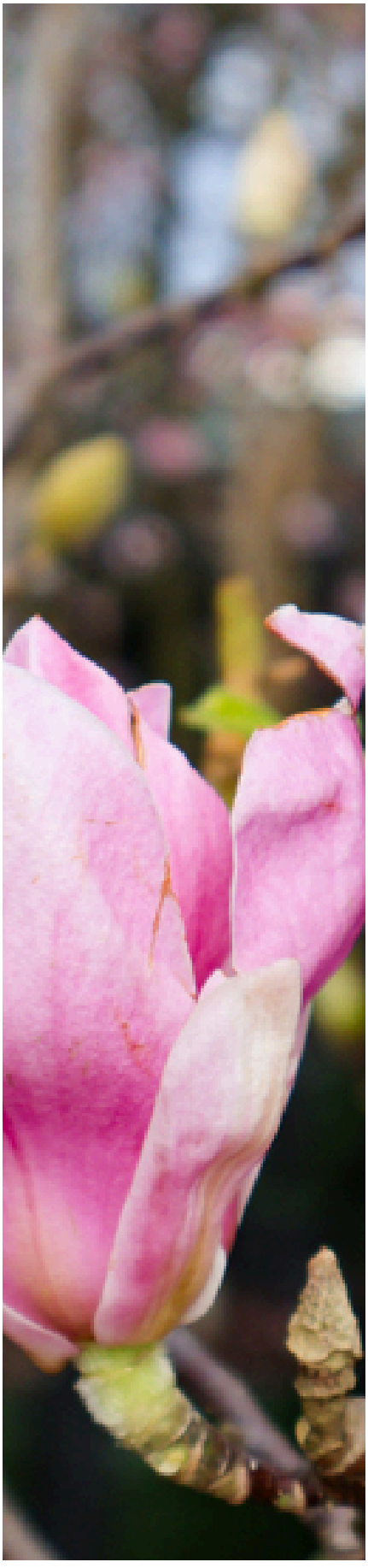
- Weekly Deep Watering: Water deeply once a week. During hot or dry weather, increase the frequency to twice a week.
- Encouraging Deep Roots: Deep watering encourages the roots to grow deeper into the soil, providing better stability and drought resistance.

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 Saucer Magnolia. 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.

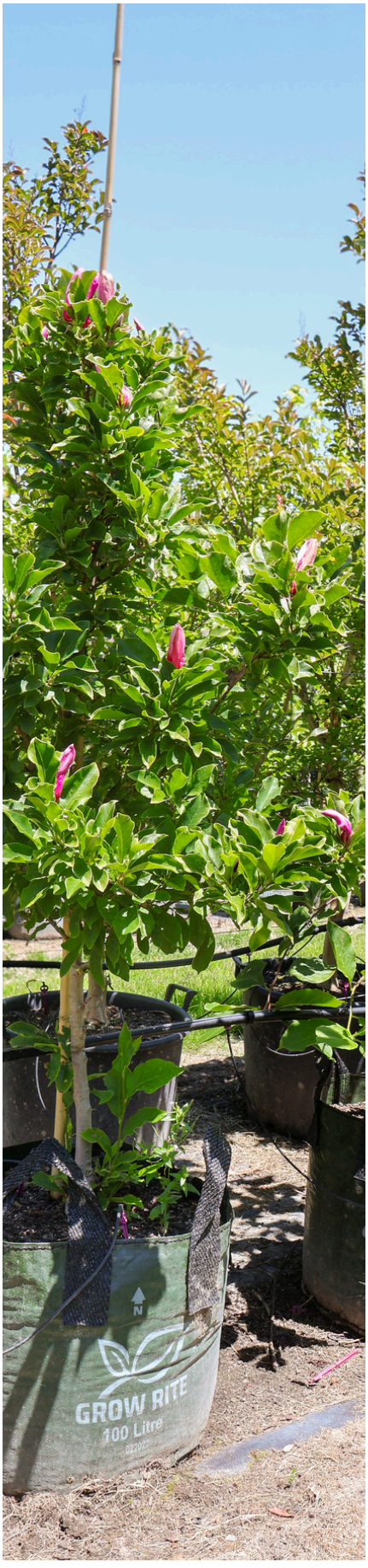
Maintaining Mulch:

- 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 Saucer Magnolia. Appropriate and timely fertilization boosts the plant's overall growth, enhances its lush foliage, and supports abundant blooming. To ensure your Sweet Viburnum 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 Saucer Magnolia. 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 Saucer Magnolia 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 Saucer Magnolia. 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 Saucer Magnolia, 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 Saucer Magnolia 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:

- Aphids and Scale Insects: Control with insecticidal soap or neem oil. Prune and destroy heavily infested branches.
- Borers: Keep trees healthy and stress-free to resist infestations. Remove and destroy affected branches. Apply appropriate insecticides to the bark if borers are detected.

Common Diseases:

- Leaf Spots: Remove affected leaves and apply fungicide.
- Powdery Mildew: Ensure good air circulation; treat with fungicide if needed.
- Root Rot: Ensure good drainage and avoid overwatering.
- Verticillium Wilt: Avoid planting in areas where the soil is known to be infected. Keep plants healthy to improve their resistance. Remove and destroy affected plants to prevent spread.

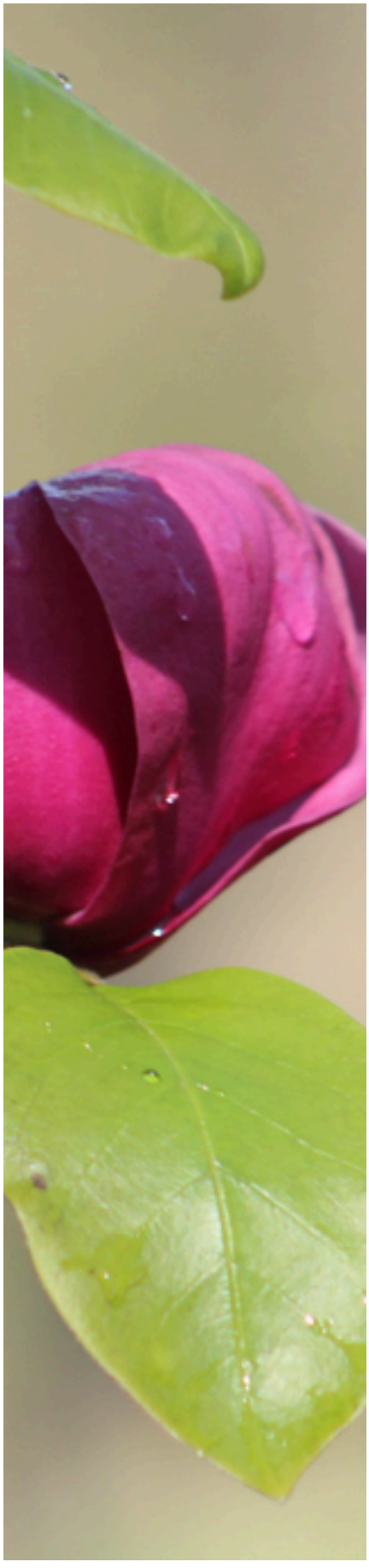
Prevention Strategies:

- 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 Saucer Magnolia 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 Saucer Magnolia:

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:

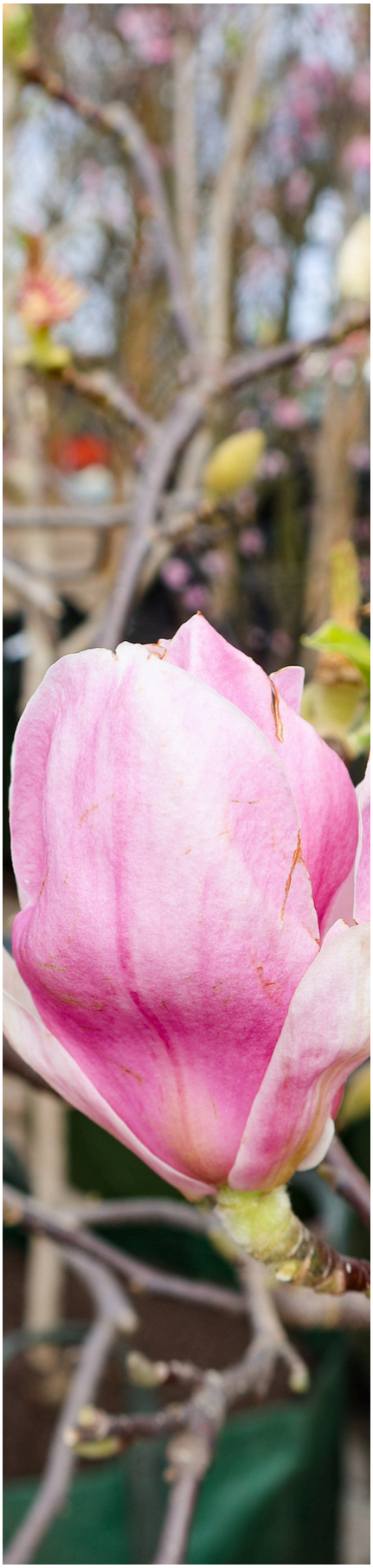
- Observation Period: Stakes are usually needed for the first 1-2 growing seasons until the plant's root system is sufficiently developed.
- Monitoring: Regularly check the stability of the plant and adjust or remove stakes as the plant becomes self-supporting.

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 Saucer Magnolia 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 Saucer Magnolia. 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 Saucer Magnolia 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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