

BROADLEAF EVERGREENS

Broadleaf evergreens are plants, which have leaves that are broad and are held on the plant throughout the winter. These would include holly, boxwood, rhododendrons, and azaleas.

Requirements

Moist well-drained acid soil with a pH of around 5.5. Soil sulfur or aluminum sulfate may be used to help lower soil pH if needed. An acid forming fertilizer such as *Fertilome Acid Loving Plant Food* will also help. Be sure to plant the root ball high for good drainage.

Protection from winter sun and wind. Site the plant where it will be protected by filtered shade from trees, or on the north or east side of a building. Extra protection in the winter would include using a spray of *Wilt-Pruf* or a screen of burlap or evergreen boughs.

Mulch to retain moisture and cool the roots in the summer, and to protect shallow roots from freezing in the winter. Use a three to four inch layer of shredded hardwood bark, cypress bark, or cocoa shells.

Planting

Prepare entire soil area, not just the planting hole. Area prepared should be about 2-3 ft wide and long.

Amend the soil with 1/2 volume of sphagnum peat moss or *Plant One Mix*. If the soil is extremely alkaline, then add sulfur or another acidifier to bring the pH to around 5.5. A soil test may be necessary to determine your needs. Simple soil test kits are available at Green View to determine your soil pH.

Plant so that the root ball is one to two inches higher than it was grown in the nursery.

Mulch with shredded hardwood or cypress bark or cocoa shells to a depth of two to four inches.

Water the new plant immediately after planting with *Fertilome Root Stimulator*. Then water your new plant once a week if you do not receive two inches of rainfall. During extremely hot and dry weather you may need to check and water more often.

Tips on Selection and Care

Select varieties hardy for our area. Consult with our plant care specialists for varieties that will do best in our area.

Pinch off dead flower clusters soon after they fade. This will make the plant look neater plus will insure heavy bud development for next year. Be careful not to injure the growth buds emerging below the clusters.

Pruning should be done after flowering in the spring. This is done only for corrective shaping.

Fertilize with a fertilizer formulated especially for acid loving plants. Be sure not to fertilize within two months of the first frost. We recommend *Fertilome Acid Loving Fertilizer* used every 10-14 days, March through July.

Raised beds may be necessary for areas with serious heavy clay problems. Mounding and planting high can correct many drainage problems.

Soak root zone with water in late fall just before the first hard freeze. This will prevent excessive drying in the winter.

Wind protection may be necessary in windy locations. Spray the plants with *Wilt-Pruf* to help retain moisture in the leaves.