

# Balsam Fir

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## Tree Type

This tree is an evergreen and will keep its foliage year-around.

## Planting

A newly planted tree is vulnerable to winds and staking may be necessary. Refer to back for best planting practices for your bareroot.

## Watering

Water deeply after planting and heavily mulching is recommended. A prolonged drought may cause the tree to crack or split. Refer to watering guidelines on back for specific watering instructions.

## Pruning

Pruning is not often needed except to remove damaged or dead branches. Prune in late winter or early spring, just as the tree comes out of its dormant state.

## Preferences

The Balsam Fir prefers full to partial shade meaning it needs a minimum of 4 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day. It prefers moist, cool, well-drained, acidic soil but will tolerate some salt. The tree does not handle clay soils very well and are not very tolerant of pollution from urban areas. This is a cold weather tree, thriving in 65-to-80-degree weather with the highest tolerable temp being around 95 degrees. While the tree may not die in high temps, its growth will be stunted.

## Attributes

This tree will grow to a height of 45 to 75 ft with a spread of 20 to 25 ft at maturity. The fir grows at a slow rate with height increasing less than 12 inches a year. It will grow into a narrow, symmetrical, spire-shaped, dense crown and develop blisters of oily resin (balsam) along the trunk.

## Wildlife Value

The seeds and buds are food for many animals including grouse, squirrels, mice and voles. White-tailed deer use the fir for food, cover and shelter. The bark is browsed by black bears.