

# Common Ninebark

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## Tree Type

This flowering shrub is deciduous and loses its foliage for the winter.

## Planting

Common Ninebark can be incorporated into a hedge or used to stabilize sloping areas to prevent erosion. Refer to back for best planting practices for your bareroot.

## Watering

Mulching is recommended to keep soil moist but is drought tolerant once established. Refer to watering guidelines on back for specific watering directions.

## Pruning

Ninebark looks best when left to maintain its natural growth and shape, however, trimming old wood annually allows for proper air circulation. Prune after it flowers, no later than mid-August.

## Preferences

Ninebark prefers full sun to partial shade meaning it needs at least 4 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight but it would flower best under full sun. It grows in slightly acidic to neutral, well-drained, loamy and clay soils. The shrub tolerates occasional flooding or drought, road salt and wet sites.

## Attributes

This shrub grows to heights of 3 to 10 ft with a spread of 3 to 8 ft at maturity. Common Ninebark grows as an arching, mounded, multi-stemmed, round shrub. It has unique exfoliating bark which peels back in thin layers as its branches mature. The shrub's green leaves form an attractive cascading mound with white or pink blooms in late spring. Ninebark is effective at stabilizing streambanks and shorelines where it can successfully compete with other aggressive species.

## Wild-life Value

Ninebark can provide a good source of nectar and pollen for a variety of pollinators including butterflies, native bees, wasps and flies. Its dense growth provides quality nesting cover for songbirds and winter cover for wildlife species such as pheasants, quail, grouse, rabbits and songbirds. Birds eat the seeds formed in Ninebark's reddish drooping fruit clusters in the fall.

When newly planted trees go without enough water, growth slows to a crawl. This delays establishment and may even lead to the death of leaves, branches, roots or the whole tree.

For the most part, trees can only take up water from soil that is in direct contact with roots. Even in the best conditions, newly transplanted trees use water from a relatively small volume of soil. To make matters worse, roots of bare root, balled & burlaped, and spaded trees are cut during transplanting.

Within two to three days after spring or summer planting, the soil around the roots of trees dries enough to impede root growth. Newly transplanted trees in the Midwest benefit from daily watering for the first one to two weeks. **Apply 1 to 1½ gallons of water for each inch of trunk diameter.** After that, **water trees every two to three days for the next two to three months and then weekly until established.** The more closely you match your watering frequency to the optimum, the quicker trees become established.

Reduce watering in cool, cloudy, or wet weather if the soil is poorly drained (soil drains less than 3/4 inches per hour). Eliminate daily irrigation in poorly drained soil.

After it rains, stop watering until the rainwater drains from the soil. Stop watering in the autumn once leaves fall from trees.

Mulch reduces evaporation and conserves water. An investment in frequent watering helps insure against tree death and the cost of replanting trees.

### BEFORE PLANTING

Select the correct tree for your site. Find help at [mndnr.gov/treecare](http://mndnr.gov/treecare).

Before digging, contact Gopher State One Call at 800-252-1155 or [gopherstateonecall.org](http://gopherstateonecall.org) to check for underground lines.

### AFTER PLANTING

#### Mulching

Applying mulch, such as wood chips, around a tree has many benefits, including:

- Improving growing conditions
- Retaining moisture
- Controlling weeds and grasses
- Adding nutrients
- Insulating soil
- Protecting trunk and roots

Mulch that is applied too deeply and against the tree is harmful. This "mulch volcano" can rot the tree's trunk, lead to insect and disease problems, and deprive roots of oxygen. Use the "3-3-3 Rule" for applying mulch: 3 feet in diameter, 3 inches deep, and 3 inches away from the trunk.

#### Watering

Watering a tree is critical to its survival during the first three years. During any week in which less than 1 inch of rain falls, provide 15-25 gallons of water, until the ground freezes. After the first few years, continue to water trees during dry times. Tree water bags may make watering easier.

#### Protecting

A plastic or metal mesh tree guard can be installed around the tree's trunk to protect it from animal, mower, and trimmer injury. The tree guard must be removed or replaced as the tree grows.

### HOW TO PLANT A BAREROOT TREE

- 1 Keep roots moist at all times. Dry roots die.
- 2 Dig a hole twice as wide as and slightly deeper than root length.
- 3 Place roots in hole so top of first woody root is within 1 inch of soil surface.
- 4 Distribute roots evenly, making sure roots are straight and not doubled over or "J" rooted.
- 5 Keeping tree straight, backfill hole up to top of first woody root.
- 6 Heel in soil with foot over entire backfill area to remove air pockets from the soil.
- 7 Water entire backfill area.
- 8 Layer 3 inches of mulch over backfilled area, keeping mulch away from trunk.

**FIRST WOODY ROOT**

**SOIL** **MULCH**

**DON'T CREATE A MULCH VOLCANO. IT CAN ROT YOUR TREE.**