

Mountain Ash (American)



Tree Type

This tree is deciduous and will lose its foliage for the winter.

Planting

This tree grows readily on slopes.

Watering

Refer to watering guidelines on back for specific watering directions.

Pruning

This tree should be pruned in the fall after the leaves have dropped or in early spring before the sap starts to flow. If needed, a few small branches can be removed in summer after the leaves have reached full size.

Preference

American Mountain Ash can grow in full sun to part shade which means it requires at least 4 direct, unfiltered sunlight. It can grow in both wet and dry soils but prefers cool, moist, acidic soils.

Attributes

American Mountain Ash grows to a height of 10 to 30ft. The tree's crown is narrow, open and round-topped and can take on a smaller more shrub-like growth in higher elevations. This tree is often found in cool forests, swamps, stream banks, forest edges, rocky shores and on bluffs. The leaves occur on bright-red leaf stalks and turn golden-orange in the fall. The small white, flowers are held in flat-topped clusters and are followed by broad clusters of bright, coral-red berries. The berries can be eaten in moderation; however, the seeds are poisonous. Bacterial fireblight can be a severe problem and should be watched for. This is not a true Ash and will not be affected by EAB.

Wildlife Value

Fruits are eaten by many birds and mammals such as ruffed grouse, red-headed woodpecker, bluebirds jays and orioles. It is a preferred plant for browsing by moose and white-tailed deer.

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.

Before digging, contact Gopher State One Call at 800-252-1155 or 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.

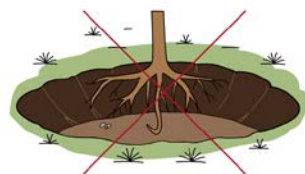
- 2 Dig a hole twice as wide as and slightly deeper than root length.

- 3 Place roots in hole so top of first woody root is within 1 inch of soil surface.

FIRST WOODY ROOT



- 4 Distribute roots evenly, making sure roots are straight and not doubled over or "J" rooted.



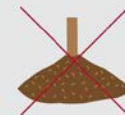
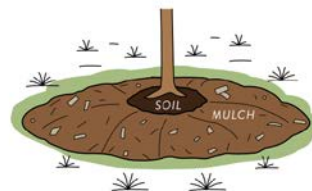
- 5 Keeping tree straight, backfill hole up to top of first woody root.



- 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 backfill area, keeping mulch away from trunk.



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