



Caring for your Magnolia

By following these simple tips, your Magnolia should be gorgeous:

Soil Preparation

If planting your Magnolia in the garden, preparing the soil with plenty of aged manure or peletised fertiliser is vital. If possible, do this several weeks prior to planting to ensure that new roots do not get burnt. If planting into a heavy clay soil, incorporating some sandy soil and raising the garden bed would be beneficial to your plant.

Pests and Diseases

Snails and slugs are a particular problem to new buds as are possums. Using snail bait or sawdust around the base of the plant should prevent snails from climbing up and covering with a net at night should keep possums at bay. Occasional fungal problems may require treatment with a copper spray when the tree is bare during late winter. Once established, Magnolias require very little maintenance.

Pruning

When located in heavy shade, some Magnolias may require some formative pruning. This is best done when the plant is Dormant in late Winter. Hard pruning of untidy branches can help thicken up the bush.

Caring for a young Magnolia

Young Magnolias are more susceptible to frost, pests and diseases. Planting Magnolias in Autumn ensures that new roots have been established before the hot weather arrives but increases the risk of frost damage. Cover a young Magnolia with hessian or fine netting when there is a risk of frost.

Young Magnolias do not like to dry out. Even in Winter, it is important that your young Magnolia is watered regularly. Leaves with brown scorched edges usually indicate dryness. Once established, Magnolias are very drought tolerant, but extra care must be taken with young plants. Budded or grafted Magnolias can be more tolerant of harsh environmental conditions.

