

## *How to Care for an Arborvitae Shrub*

### *Thuja occidentalis* ‘Dark Green, Emerald Green, ‘Fire Chief, ‘Rheingold, ‘Smaragd

#### **SELECT SITE:**

Light Requirements: Full Sun => 6 hours per day (in shaded sites, the plant will grow but the foliage will fade to a sickly color and will not be as dense/full.

This shrub will grow larger;

Space ‘Dark Green and ‘Nigra: 60 in. away from other plants or structures

Space ‘Emerald Green and ‘Smaragd: 36 in. away from other plants or structures

Space ‘Fire Chief: 24 in. away from other plants or structures

Space ‘Rheingold: 36 in. away from other plants or structures

Tolerates a wide range of soils, prefers rich moist loam.

Versatile Plant for:

Specimen for rock garden. Mass or group in shrub border. Lower growing varieties make a hedge along pathways, taller cultivates are commonly used for natural privacy fences. Near the home foundation.

Ideal USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 3,4,5,6,7

#### **PLANT PREP:**

Open box upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant “breathe”. Remove plastic bag, tape, and newspaper. Water well. There are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot so do this outside where the extra water will drain away.

#### **HOLE PREP:**

Dig saucer shaped hole. The depth is determined by measuring the height of the roots from root flare to bottom. The width is 2-3 times the root ball diameter. Using these calculations, the ideal hole for the new bush will be approximately 10” tall by 24-30” wide.

#### **PLANTING:**

Put garden soil in a wheelbarrow or on a tarp. Mix the garden soil with equal amounts of mulch, peat moss, and potting soil. Place plant in hole and adjust for aesthetics. Hold in place while adding more soil, until the hole is completely filled. Push soil down until firm. Do not plant the shrub deeper than it has already been growing. Water well immediately after planting. Mulch evenly to a depth of 2-3 inches being sure to stay at least 4” away from its trunk.

#### **FUTURE MAINTENANCE:**

If desired, fertilize in spring when new growth begins. Apply 2 tbsps. of an all-purpose slow release fertilizer upon the ground in a band around the plant at least 6” away from its stem.