



## **Topiaries and Standards**

Topiary and Standards give a stately impression in any garden setting enhancing the garden design and style. The use of Topiaries and Standards can quite easily be incorporated into the design of Patio's, Borders and Garden settings.

Most Topiaries' and Standards are relatively easy to care for and do not require a high maintenance program, however regular trimming, feeding and watering can help your topiary trees retain their original design and keep them healthy.

### **Feeding**

Feed topiary trees that are planted in pots and garden beds at least every few weeks with a liquid food until the plant has fully formed or filled out. In addition, use a slow release fertilizer or Sheep manure around the base of the plant and replace it once each year to provide extra nutrients.

### **Watering**

Water topiaries approximately once every week, allowing water to sink deeply into the soil. Water only when the soil on top is completely dry.

### **Pruning and shaping**

Prune to cut the topiary back to its original shape in the early part of spring each year. Don't begin pruning until you are certain that the last frost has been, as frost could damage the tree if there are open wounds.

To maintain shape, trim the topiary as often as necessary throughout the growing season of September through to April. Be careful not to trim too much. It can take years for a topiary tree to replace foliage lost in one bad cut.

Don't clip any limbs or foliage after early Autumn. Late pruning or shaping will make new shoots vulnerable to the first frosts of winter.

Pinch off new shoots as they emerge, this encourages thicker growth of subsequent shoots.

### **General**

Topiary specimens, if fed regularly and are planted in a pot that is large enough for the specimen can happily stay in the same pot for several years, however it is advisable to re-pot by replacing the planting mix and fertilizers every three to four years. Topiaries will definitely benefit from this extra attention.