



Emerald Green Arborvitae Success Plan

This checklist is designed for homeowners ready to transform their yard with a natural privacy screen. Use this list to navigate every stage of the process, from the initial measurements at the nursery to the seasonal care that ensures your trees survive the winter.

Phase 1: Planning and Selection

- **Measure your available width.** Confirm you have at least 3 to 4 feet of horizontal clearance for each tree to prevent overcrowding.
- **Check your hardiness zone.** Verify that you live in USDA zones 3 through 8 before purchasing to ensure the tree can survive your climate.
- **Calculate the quantity needed.** Plan for spacing of 2.5 to 3 feet from center to center for a dense privacy hedge.
- **Inspect the root ball.** Look for white, healthy root tips at the nursery and avoid plants that are pot-bound with circling roots.
- **Assess the sunlight.** Monitor the planting site to ensure it receives at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily.

Phase 2: Planting Day

- **Dig the correct hole size.** Excavate a hole that is twice as wide as the root ball but no deeper than the root ball itself.
- **Check for drainage.** Pour water into the empty hole; if it doesn't drain within a few hours, amend the soil with organic matter.
- **Position the tree straight.** Stand back and view the tree from multiple angles to ensure it is perfectly vertical before filling the hole.
- **Skip the fertilizer.** Do not add chemical fertilizer into the planting hole to avoid burning the tender young roots.
- **Mulch effectively.** Apply a 2-3 inch layer of mulch around the base, keeping it pulled back slightly from the trunk to prevent rot.

Phase 3: Critical Care and Maintenance

- **Water immediately and frequently.** Soak the soil daily for the first month, aiming for 1-2 gallons per foot of tree height.
- **Monitor for pests.** Shake a branch over white paper once a month to check for tiny spider mites or look for hanging bagworm sacks.



- **Clean the interior.** Gently remove dead brown needles from the inside of the tree annually to improve air circulation.
- **Prune for single leaders.** Snip off competing vertical stems early to maintain the snow-shedding pyramidal shape.
- **Hydrate before the freeze.** Continue watering deep into late autumn until the ground freezes to prevent winter burn and desiccation.