Signs of Transplant shock and what to do.

A plant is a living product and in some cases can suffer from transplant shock when it is transferred from one environment to another. Transplant shock occurs when the plant is unable to extract adequate water from its new surrounds. The plant needs to needs to re-establish its roots in its new location, therefore after planting care should focus on encouraging rapid root development to restore the ability of the plant's uptake of water.

Signs of Shock:

Leaf scorch is a common symptom of transplant shock. Leaf scorch first appears as a yellowing or bronzing of tissue between the veins or along the margins of leaves of deciduous plants (those that lose their leaves in winter). Later, the discoloured tissue dries out and turns brown. Other symptoms of transplant shock appear as wilting leaves (especially on recent transplants), yellowing, and leaf rolling or curling.

Actions to minimise shock.

- Disturb the roots as little as possible during planting.
- Keep the root ball moist at all times, but check the drainage. Consistent frequent water is essential for their survival. Failure to maintain regular watering when a plant is first planted will cause your plant to suffer adverse effects. All of our plants are drip irrigated twice a day during summer and the potting mix is always moist. Initially your plant needs a similar water regime when at home. A mature tree should receive 12 litres (a bucket) two to three times a day during moderate temperatures. Over time this should be reduced to a couple of deep waterings two or three times a week. Note during a plants first summer, when the temperature exceeds 30 degrees, the plant will need to be watered several times during the day. Failure to do so may result in the plants death. The plant needs to be watered whenever it shows signs of wilting,
- Check the drainage. If the plant sits in water, this will cause further stress, as oxygen can't get to the roots and the root tissue will slowly die. If the plant is sitting in water the soil becomes toxic and will not support microbes necessary for the plants health. If drainage is poor this will need to corrected immediately,
- Apply Seasol if evidence of stress is visible. This is like giving your tree a dose of multi-vitamins. It helps to promote improved root growth, stimulates production of good microbes in the soil and thickens cell walls. Seasol is well known as an excellent all-round plant tonic and is really useful in helping plants to cope with the stress from transplanting, heat and drought.
    - This first application should be more than twice the normal rate and is only intended for the first few applications. Regular application rates for large trees are 100 to 200 ml of Seasol per 9 litres of water. This means for large or stressed trees you apply 200 to 400 millilitres for the first application. For stressed plants, the rate is 40 to 100 ml of Seasol per 9 litres of water. For stressed plants, this means you will mix 80 to 200 millilitres to 9 litres of water for the first application.
    - Repeat the double strength application one week later.
    - Scale back application rates weekly until you reach the normal rate of Seasol to 9 liters of water.
    - Apply Seasol at regular rates to the soil around the tree or plant every two to four weeks throughout the growing season.
- Add a light mulch to encourage earth worms and other activity around the roots. Keep mulch away from the trunk, otherwise the trunk will rot.
- Spray and antitranspirant such as Stressguard on the foliage to minimise moisture loss from the leaves
- All of these products are available from Bunnings.