



## Caring for your Cassia Rainbow Shower

**Congratulations! You are now the proud owner of a Cassia Rainbow Shower, one of the most stunning flowering sub tropical trees.**

We have put together this simple information sheet to help you get your new Cassia 'Rainbow Shower' established in the quickest possible time. Very soon you will have a beautiful flowering tree.

Cassia 'Rainbow Shower' is a hardy tree, once established they are relatively drought tolerant, can withstand high wind, do well in coastal locations and can withstand poor soils. Like all plants, they also like a little pampering.


**Prepare your planting hole:** Dig a hole that will be approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> wider again than the size of the root ball you are expecting and just a little bit deeper.

**Planting soil:** Before your tree arrives, arrange for some good quality potting mix to be on hand to use as back fill around the rootball and to fill your planting hole. A mix that is free draining and contains organic matter is ideal. Place some of this soil in the bottom of the hole, enough so that the top of the rootball will end up sitting level with the surrounding soil. Then backfill around the root ball ensuring the soil is firmly packed. Never plant a tree deeper than it is already planted.

**Watering:** Watering is dependent on the conditions your tree is planted into. Keep in mind that the tree is surviving on only the roots contained within the root ball it was delivered with for a minimum of 6 weeks. How quickly roots penetrate into the surrounding soil depends on many things such as the time of year, the soil type, growth stage of the tree, natural rainfall etc. As a general rule of thumb please use the following guidelines, but be prepared to step outside them to meet your local conditions.

- **First 6 weeks:** Water the tree every second day ensuring you cover the top of the root ball with water, remember there are no roots in the surrounding soil, so the highest priority is the root ball. Ensure the root ball and surrounding soil is moist, but not wet. Saturated roots are as detrimental to a plant as dry roots, so the balance, is moist, not wet.



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- **Once established:** For best results regular water is ideal. Temperature and wind speed affect the trees water uptake, higher temperatures and greater wind speeds increase the uptake of water. Water demand will be higher in Summer. Winter demand for an established tree will be negligible, particularly when in its deciduous state.

**Fertilising:** All plants benefit from regular fertilising, it helps them to grow and produce more flowers. Pacific Trees recommends fertilising your tree with Seasol™ for establishment. This is a seaweed emulsion available from hardware stores, supermarkets and nurseries. Once established fertilise twice a year with a good quality complete fertiliser. Remember fertilising keeps your Cassia Rainbow Shower healthy, making it more resistant to pest attack.

**Maintenance:** Cassia Rainbow Shower can be susceptible to insects such as aphids and caterpillars. Keep an eye on your Rainbow Shower during the warmer months and regularly spray them with your insect repellent of choice. Also keep an eye out for borer in the trees, these insects also love to have a piece of your tree and can permanently damage the trees structure.

Cassia will respond well to pruning, so to keep a nice form to your tree, give it a trim after flowering each year. You can be as gentle or as brutal as you like to maintain the tree shape you want, they can withstand a good hard prune and will reward you with lots of new growth. Keep the trunk clear of low shoots so you can maintain a clean trunk for you to sit under and admire the flowers above your head.

Being a semi deciduous tree, expect to pick up leaves, but these make excellent garden compost, so your Cassia Rainbow Shower can give even more benefits to your garden.

Happy Gardening!

The Pacific Trees Team.