



**DEVIL MOUNTAIN
WHOLESALE NURSERY**

SPECIMEN TREES

**SELECTING, TRANSPORTING, AND
PLANTING SPECIMEN TREES**

9885 ALCOSTA BOULEVARD | SAN RAMON, CA | 94583
WWW.DEVILMOUNTAINNURSERY.COM

NORTHERN CA: SAN RAMON | PETALUMA | MORGAN HILL | COLMA | CLEMENTS | FARMINGTON | LA SELVA BEACH
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REDONDO BEACH | SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO | VISTA



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SPECIMEN TREES

The installation of a specimen tree provides an immediate transformation of a landscape. The ability to work with these larger trees and shrubs is a meaningful part of a landscaper's offering and will bring tremendous excitement and enjoyment to clients. The enclosed information is an introductory guide to selecting, transporting, and planting specimen trees.

Please feel free to contact Devil Mountain with any questions, concerns, or for further information.

www.devilmountainnursery.com

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INTRODUCTION

Specimen trees are large trees that provide instant maturity to a landscape's appearance, can provide immediate shade or privacy, and are often the focal point in new landscapes. Additionally, specimen trees are well suited for replacements in settings where older, more mature plants and trees are present.

Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery is a reliable source for specimen trees and shrubs from 60" boxes to 132" boxes. These trees are grown in our larger nurseries and are available for purchase directly from our growing grounds or through your salesperson at our local stores. For many varieties we have large quantities of trees with similar appearance for a cohesive look in larger installations.

Additionally, Devil Mountain also offers many unique, one-of-a-kind specimen trees that provide an exceptional and distinctive look to a landscape. These trees are grown in 60" boxes up to 132" boxes.

Beyond our unparalleled selection of specimens, we offer delivery of these large trees and will acquire any necessary permits to transport them to your desired location. Because specimen trees require special handling, transportation, and planting, it is essential to understand the needs of these trees to ensure their success in your project. This guide has been created to assist you as you consider specimen trees.



TREE ON THE MOVE

① STORED

- At the nursery, the tree is placed on concrete blocks to prevent the container from settling into the ground.
- An irrigation system is used to keep the tree watered.
- Trees can remain boxed for 3 to 5 years.



② LIFTED UP AND AWAY

- After purchase, the tree is lifted and placed on a low flatbed trailer over the back wheels and the trailer's main axle to support the tree's weight.
- The capacity and size of the truck, trailer and crane depend on the tree weight.



③ HOLE IS CREATED

- At the job site, a hole is dug to fit the correct tree size.



④ TREE IS PLANTED

- At the job site, a crane is used to lift the tree from the flatbed and place it in the hole.
- Crane cables or lifting straps run under two sides and the box bottom.
- Once the tree is correctly in place, the planter box is removed and the hole is backfilled.
- Mulch and fertilizer tablets are applied. Monitor moisture level of rootball and irrigate as needed.





Cupressus macrocarpa 48" box

Overgrown tree on the left, properly proportioned tree on the right

When selecting a specimen tree, it's important to look for a tree that is sized proportionately to the box in which it is planted. An overgrown tree may look impressive to your client and sound like a good deal (a 72" size tree in a 60" box), but in reality it will have a limited root system for its size and will likely exhibit poor performance in the landscape. In this case, bigger doesn't mean better.

You want assurance that your specimen tree has been grown properly. Devil Mountain trees are started in air root pruning pots, reducing the risk of girdling roots and resulting in an extensive, efficient root system. Timely upsizing into large containers ensures that root development progresses as the tree grows, resulting in a specimen that will perform better upon installation.

SELECTING SPECIMEN TREES

1. The first step in selecting an appropriate specimen is contacting your Devil Mountain Nursery Sales Representative to check on available options by variety and container size.
2. Be sure to check site conditions, existing/future hardscape elements, the location of underground utilities, and any other constraints that might limit the size of the plantable area. You will want to allow for a planting hole that is 4' wider than the wooden tree box.
3. It is also important to verify large equipment access on your site during the planning process.
4. Photo reviews are a helpful starting point in obtaining the specifier's/owner's approval of larger trees, and often 60" and 72" box trees are photo approved with no further action needed.
5. Larger specimens, 84" through 132", should be reviewed in the nursery when possible since they can have unique features or varying appearance.
6. During the selection process in the field, the trees chosen should be photographed and tagged using Devil Mountain sold tags provided to you by your sales representative. It is also helpful to send your sales representative a photo of the tagged tree(s).
7. When preparing to order the tree, be certain to confirm with your sales representative that the tree was photo approved and/or tagged in the field.

For more information and to view our Availability List, please visit:
www.devilmountainnursery.com/specimen-trees/



Offloading a 120" box Sequoia 'Aptos Blue'

DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS

- Many jobsites have limited access due to traffic, narrow roads, truck restrictions, and tight curves. These challenges can make large equipment access difficult, or even impossible. Please consider how a tree will make it from a freeway/highway to your jobsite. Are there any limitations?
- You will need to have equipment on site. Please be aware of special equipment needed to offload and plant these trees (see **Equipment Considerations**). Is a crane required to place the tree? Will a tractor work? What will be its path? Is it safe?
- Some taller and/or wider trees may require special transport permits and even pilot cars. Our dispatchers and sales teams will work through these requirements with you. Please be aware that delivery times may be dictated by state or local authorities if permits are required. See **Wide Loads, Permits, and Pilot Cars**.
- When shipping trees directly from our Southern California locations to a Northern California address, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office in the receiving county may request an agricultural inspection for Glassy Winged Sharpshooter once the trees are delivered. Devil Mountain can assist but the responsibility is ultimately on the purchaser to self-report the tree delivery.
- Deliveries from our Southern California locations can take more time due to required agricultural inspections before we are able to load our trucks. Because of this requirement, Monday deliveries are generally not available.



96" box tree on a flatbed trailer

LOAD CHART

CONTAINER SIZE	TOTAL QUANTITY PER BOBTAIL	QUANTITY SEMI-TRAILER	NURSERY GROWN*
15 Gallon	100-150	250-350	80 lbs
25 Gallon	20-24	48-56	250 lbs
24" Box	24-30	60-100	400 lbs
36" Box	10	26-32	1,300 lbs
48" Box	4-5	8-12	2,800 lbs
60" Box	2	4-6	5,000 lbs
72" Box	1	2-3	10,000 lbs
84" Box	-	1-2	13,000 lbs
96" Box	-	1	25,000 lbs
108" Box	-	1	35,000 lbs
120" Box	-	1	40,000 lbs
132" Box	-	1	53,000 lbs

**Approximate weight per individual tree or plant.*

EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The equipment needed to offload and install larger trees can vary based on the weight of the trees and the distance to the location where they are offloaded.

However, these suggestions are only meant as guidelines. It is important to verify the onsite conditions and access requirements in conjunction with onsite crane/equipment vendors and operators.

When using cranes, it can be difficult to time the delivery of trees to match the arrival and set up of the crane. It is often best to take delivery of the trees a day prior to your planned installation. Keep in mind that there is the possibility that either the tree delivery or the crane arrival and setup could be delayed for a variety of reasons, resulting in additional cost. It is advisable to take these potential unplanned costs into account when preparing an estimate for your client.



60" BOX

- 60" boxes can be unloaded using a large tractor (John Deere 544 or 644 or equal), telehandler (e.g., Xtreme Lift), or a crane (please discuss the crane size needed with your crane provider/operator).



Crane offloading a 60" box tree

72" BOX

- 72" boxes can be unloaded using a large tractor (John Deere 544 or 644 or equal), telehandler (e.g., Xtreme Lift), or a crane (please discuss the crane size needed with your crane provider/operator).



**72" box offloading with
a Cat 950 Tractor with
fork attachment**



Offloading a 72" box with a telehandler

84"-132" BOX

- 84"-132" boxes can be unloaded using a telehandler (e.g., Xtreme Lift) or a crane (please discuss the crane size needed with your crane provider/operator).
- Individual tree weights can vary widely depending on how they are grown. Please refer to the **Planning Your Delivery Chart**.



Xtreme Forklift (telehandler) offloading a 108" box tree

PLANNING YOUR DELIVERY

This chart provides some general guidelines for truckload capacities and tree/plant weights to inform planning for equipment and manpower needs. These are approximations only and should not be used without verification prior to ordering materials or equipment. We always recommend oversizing your equipment. It is the responsibility of the contractor to unload the material from our truck, with assistance from our delivery driver where practical.

The manpower listed on the chart indicates the minimum number of customer crew needed, along with our driver, to safely offload the material. As an example, for 15 gallon through 24" box trees, our driver on the truck bed can assist one customer employee on the ground to offload plants using the equipment indicated. For offloading larger trees, our driver will remain on the truck bed (if appropriate) with four customer crew members on the ground who may operate the tractor, attach needed rigging, spot/guide the operator, direct traffic, or keep the work area clear of others.

TELEHANDLERS

You may need a telehandler on the jobsite to move specimen trees. A telehandler may also be known as an Xtreme Forklift, Gradall Forklift, Construction Forklifts, or telescopic forklift. Weight, height, forward reach, and site conditions will determine the best type of telehandler for your job, and you should discuss these with your rental company.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Papé Telehandler Guide

www.papemh.com/blog/telehandler-sizes-your-guide-to-choosing-the-right-telehandler-for-the-job

United Rentals Telehandler Guide

www.unitedrentals.com/marketplace/equipment/forklifts/telehandlers

CONTAINER SIZE	QTY BOBTAIL	QTY SEMI-TRAILER	NURSERY GROWN*	FIELD GROWN*	MANPOWER NEEDED**	EQUIPMENT NEEDED
15g	100-150	250-350	80 lbs	Not Grown	1	Dolly
25g	20-24	48-56	250 lbs	Not Grown	1	Small Tractor - Bobcat Tractor or Equal
24"	24-30	60-100	400 lbs	725 lbs	1	Small Tractor - Bobcat Tractor or Equal
36"	10	26-32	1,300 lbs	2,500 lbs	3	Medium Tractor - Kubota R-520 or Equal
48"	4-5	8-12	2,800 lbs	6,000 lbs	4	Medium Tractor - Kubota R-520 or Equal
60"	2	4-6	5,000 lbs	8,000 lbs	4	Large Tractor - John Deere 544 or Equal
72"	1	2-3	10,000 lbs	12,000 lbs	4	Large Tractor - Telehandler or Crane
84"	-	1-2	13,000 lbs	18,000 lbs	4	Large Tractor - Telehandler or Crane
96"	-	1	25,000 lbs	25,000 lbs	4	Large Tractor - Telehandler or Crane
108"	-	1	35,000 lbs	35,000 lbs	4	Large Tractor - Telehandler or Crane
120"	-	1	40,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	4	Large Tractor - Telehandler or Crane
132"	-	1	53,000 lbs	53,000 lbs	4	Large Tractor - Telehandler or Crane

**Approximate weight per individual tree or plant. **Manpower Needed refers to staff needs on site to assist in offloading activities.*

WIDE LOADS, PERMITS, AND PILOT CARS

Some deliveries may require permits from governmental agencies or consist of wide loads on trailers that may create access challenges. Others may even require pilot/escort vehicles to travel with the trees.

WIDE LOADS

Any time the load exceeds 96 inches in width or the overall truck and load length exceeds 65 feet, a permit will be required. Load heights can also impact transport as the height is limited to 14 feet overall from ground to highest point of load on trailer.

- Wide load permits typically cost \$150-350, but special situations are often more expensive.

PERMITS

These are documents required by CalTrans or by County and/or City authorities to move wide loads over their roads. These permits require the truck to follow a specific route, travel at certain times of the day, or not move in the dark. Devil Mountain will pay for the permit up front, and will include this cost in the client's invoice.

PILOT CARS

An escort vehicle that is required by the permits to travel with the wide load, either for parts of the journey or for the entire length of transit, on a specific permit approved route. At times we are required to use multiple pilot cars, and in some very rare cases, the Highway Patrol must be part of the escort team.

- Pilot/escort cars are most commonly needed on 96" box trees and larger. Devil Mountain will provide the pilot cars, but ultimately the purchaser will pay the cost of wide load permits and pilot car usage.
- Pilot cars can run \$1,000 each from Fillmore to Northern California. In rare cases two pilot cars may be required.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL AND CRANE/RIGGING SERVICE OPTIONS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Equipment Rentals

- Sunbelt Rentals-Various locations (www.sunbeltrentals.com/location/)
- CAT Rentals-Various locations (Including Cresco sites) (www.catrentalstore.com/en_US/locations.html)
- HercRentals-Various locations (www.hercrentals.com/)

Cranes and Rigging Services

- Bigge Cranes (510) 277-4747 (www.bigge.com/crane-rental/san-leandro-ca/)
- King Crane (408) 452-1537 (www.kingcrane.com/)
- Titan Crane/Stockton/Central Valley (www.titancrane.net/)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Equipment Rentals

- Sunbelt Rentals-Various Locations (www.sunbeltrentals.com/)
- CAT Rentals-Various locations (Including Cresco sites) (www.catrentalstore.com)
- Calgrove Equipment Rentals (818) 805-1617 (www.calgroverentals.com/)

Cranes and Rigging Services

- Bob's Crane Service-San Diego Area (619) 443-5887 (www.bobscrane.com/)
- Crane Rental Service Orange/Riverside (714) 997-3100 (www.cranerentalservice.com/)
- Skyline Crane LA/Ventura (818) 400-2783 (www.skylinecranerental.com/)

RECEIVING, PLANTING, AND CARING FOR YOUR SPECIMEN TREE

1. All jobsites are unique. Please work with all your vendors (contractors, subcontractors, crane company, equipment rental vendor, etc.) to verify the equipment needed to offload from the trailer and set the trees in the appropriate location.
2. The trees will be delivered laying prone on a flatbed trailer.
3. Have your planting pit pre-dug prior to delivery, unless you plan to unload and then plant later, as two separate steps.
4. Make sure your planting pits are water percolation tested, as standing water at the bottom of a large tree pit can kill roots. In some cases, a drain may need to be added, or the use of an inspection tube may be required. A basic percolation test would be to place 6" depth of water in the bottom of the tree pit. If the water disappears in 24 hours, it suggests sufficient percolation. If it does not all drain, then some type of additional measure to improve percolation should be considered.
5. Dig the plant pit large enough to easily work around the tree while setting and backfilling; most installers give themselves 24" additional space on each side of the pit.
6. Backfill material is at the discretion of the specifier (landscape architect or other), but in the absence of specific guidance we have found that native soil is the best backfill.
7. Do not over-excavate the pit. Be certain to confirm the actual rootball depth before digging. It is best to only dig it as deep as you need to get the top of the rootball a few inches above grade. This prevents the tree from settling over time. We have found that planting the tree a little high, approximately 4" above grade, keeps the root crown exposed and helps prevent water buildup around the trunk.
8. Remember to remove any twine, ropes, or leader stakes from the tree canopy before you lift, as it may require a manlift to reach and remove these materials after planting.
9. When setting the tree, do not remove the box bottom or any metal straps

while lifting and setting it. Specimen tree boxes don't have a lot of taper, and the tree can fall through if lifted without all of the banding and bottom in place. Wait until it is in the hole to remove the box sides and metal strapping.

10. Leaving the bottom of the box in place under the tree at planting is an often used tactic when planting specimen trees. However, some specifications call for its removal, which can be complicated. Please consult with the creator of the specifications for guidance.
11. When you backfill the planting pit, be sure to avoid leaving any large air pockets, but do not over compact the soil and smother the roots on the sides of the rootball. Loosen any encircling roots, and consider removing 1-1½" of soil from all faces, encouraging roots to move out into backfill.
12. We suggest you add 2"-3" of mulch over the top of the rootball, avoiding a buildup against the trunk of the tree. Also, as you place the mulch, lay down some plant fertilizer tablets at the recommend rate between the mulch and the native backfill. Either Agriform Fertilizer Tablets 20-10-5 or Best Tabs 20-10-5 is a good choice.
13. Post-installation maintenance is the most critical component of long-term success. Large rootballs can be hard to fully hydrate, so use a 36" soil probe into the rootball, not into the surrounding backfill, to check the moisture.
14. Depending on the season and temperatures, water needs can vary. Even in the winter you need to check rootball hydration, because rainfall is often not enough to penetrate the entire root mass when initially planted.
15. We recommend that you don't fertilize for at least 90 days, except for the planting tablets under the mulch. We like to wait until we see new growth from the tree before applying additional fertilizer.
16. If something does not look right to you, please feel free to send us a few photos immediately and we will give you any feedback apparent to us from the photos.
17. **These guidelines are meant to help, but you must consider your own site and conditions, and make the best decision based on your observations and those of the individuals most aware of your specific situation.**

OUR LOCATIONS

CARMEL VALLEY

4343 Carmel Valley Road
San Diego, CA 92130
CarmelValley@devilmountainnursery.com
(858) 794-1858

CLEMENTS

16950 E. Liberty Road
Clements, CA 95227
Clements@devilmountainnursery.com
(209) 759-3003

COLMA

2499 Hillside Blvd
Colma, CA 94014
Colma@devilmountainnursery.com
(650) 755-2330

FARMINGTON

28915 E. Funck Road
Farmington, CA 95230
Farmington@devilmountainnursery.com
(209) 886-5511

FILLMORE

3200 W. Telegraph Road
Fillmore, CA 93015
Fillmore@devilmountainnursery.com
(805) 524-3939

MORGAN HILL

1965 Tennant Ave
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
MorganHill@devilmountainnursery.com
(669) 888-3738

OCEANSIDE

5708 N. River Road
Oceanside, CA 92057
Oceanside@devilmountainnursery.com
(760) 732-3501

ORANGE

1555 N. Glassell St
Orange, CA 92867
Orange@devilmountainnursery.com
(714) 921-1003

PETALUMA

499 Pepper Road
Petaluma, CA 94952
Petaluma@devilmountainnursery.com
(707) 835-0250

REDONDO BEACH

2500 Manhattan Beach Blvd
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
Redondo@devilmountainnursery.com
(310) 909-7620

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

31461 Avenida De La Vista
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
SanJuanCapistrano@devilmountainnursery.com
(949) 496-9356

SAN RAMON

9885 Alcosta Blvd
San Ramon, CA 94583
SanRamon@devilmountainnursery.com
(925) 829-6006

VISTA

545 Smilax Road
Vista, CA 92081
Vista@devilmountainnursery.com
(760) 305-0427



