

How to Plant a Tree/Shrub

For three generations we have carefully studied many thousands of plantings and then fine tuned our planting techniques because we have seen that how a plant is introduced to its new environment profoundly affects the success of that plant. Over time our methods have become the industry standard. See below for simplified instructions and illustration. The professionals who plant for us are trained to use all the skills we have learned over the years and are eager to serve you.

Remove **at least top third** of wire basket (after the tree is set in the hole and is staked), all twine that is around the trunk, as much of fiber pots as possible, any burlap that touches the trunk, and all protective plastic wrap.

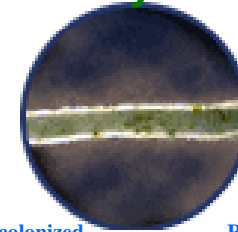
Stakes and ties are not optional in our windy world. Drive stakes in undisturbed soil. Leave staked for one year. 5' metal T-Posts work best.

TO AMEND SOIL Mix **no more** than 1/3 sphagnum peat moss, cotton bur compost, or humus with backfill. Use cotton burr compost in clay soils. Mix soil amendment thoroughly with existing soil. Mix amended soil with water as you backfill. Mycorrhizae can be used with any tree or shrub, and will promote better roots.

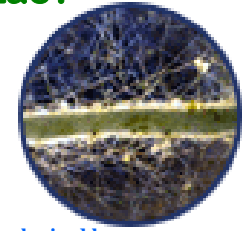
Root flare determines the planting depth, not the top of the soil ball. Things are not always as they seem in the soils ball, so locate the root flare to determine the correct planting depth. The most effective 'treatment' of Stem Girdling Roots (SGR's) is prevention, and planting too deep increases SGRs.

***Potted and Root Control Bag grown shrubs and trees are planted similarly. Remove all plastic pots/root control bags, and as much of fiber pots as possible. Poke lots of holes in any remaining fiber pots. **Score the roots** aggressively with a sharp knife on all container trees and shrubs so the roots don't girdle the plant.

What is Mycorrhizae?

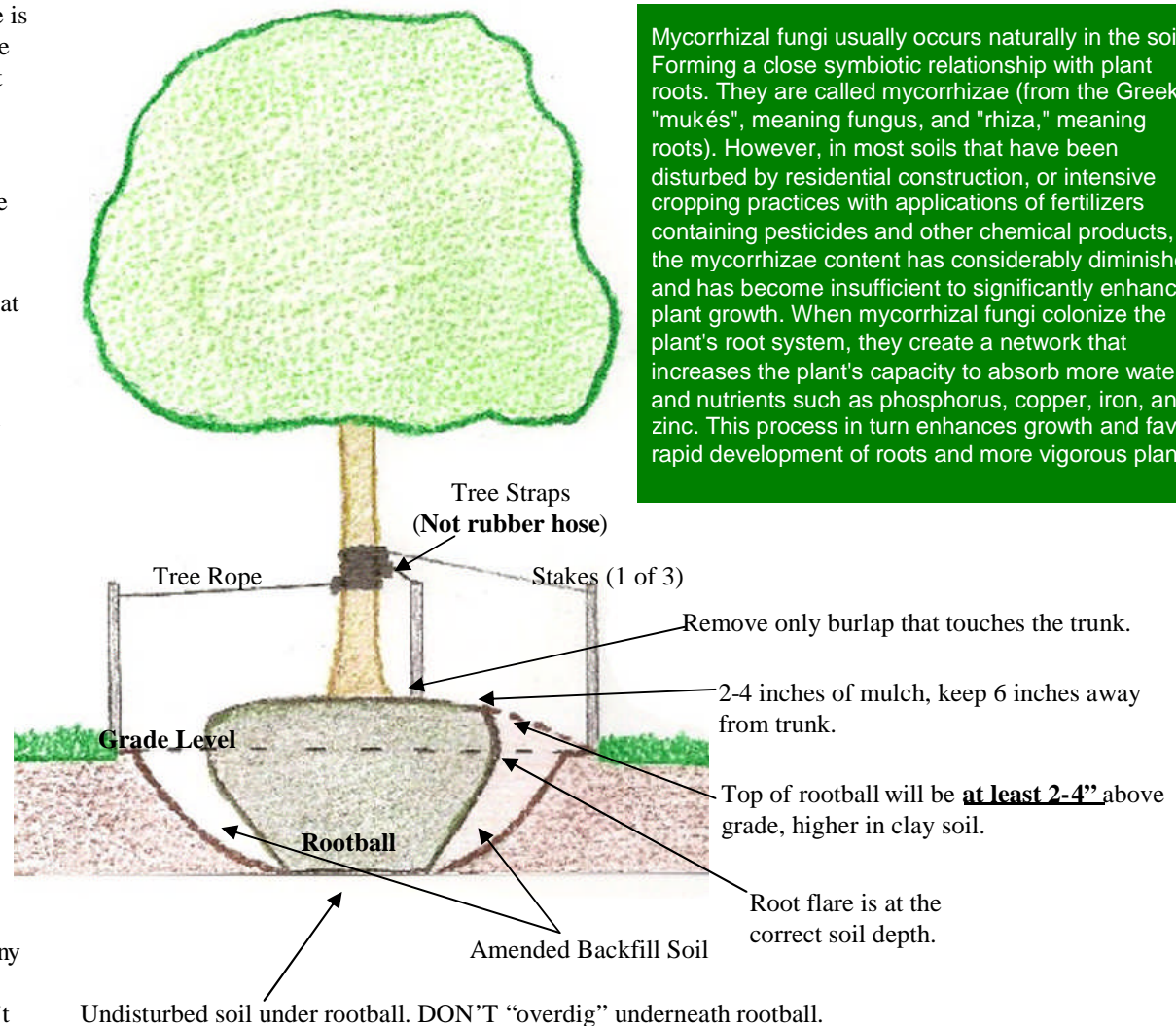


Uncolonized Root



Root colonized by mycorrhizal fungi

Mycorrhizal fungi usually occurs naturally in the soil. Forming a close symbiotic relationship with plant roots. They are called mycorrhizae (from the Greek "mukés", meaning fungus, and "rhiza," meaning roots). However, in most soils that have been disturbed by residential construction, or intensive cropping practices with applications of fertilizers containing pesticides and other chemical products, the mycorrhizae content has considerably diminished, and has become insufficient to significantly enhance plant growth. When mycorrhizal fungi colonize the plant's root system, they create a network that increases the plant's capacity to absorb more water and nutrients such as phosphorus, copper, iron, and zinc. This process in turn enhances growth and favors rapid development of roots and more vigorous plants.



Undisturbed soil under rootball. DON'T "overdig" underneath rootball.