

PLANTING

For four generations we have studied thousands of plantings to fine tune our planting techniques. 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. The Independent Contractors who plant for us are trained to use all the skills we have learned over the years and are eager to serve you.



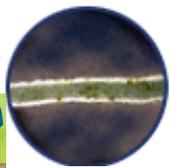
Remove **at least the top third** of the wire basket (after the tree is set in the hole and is staked), all twine that is around the trunk, as much of fiber pot as possible, any burlap that touches the trunk, and all protective plastic wrap.

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

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 (strangle) the plant.

TO AMEND SOIL, mix native soil with **no more** than 1/3 Compost. Use coarser compost in clay soils. Mix soil amendment thoroughly with existing/native soil. Mix amended soil with water as you backfill. Mycorrhizae can be used with any tree or shrub and will promote better roots. Over amending does more harm than

WHAT IS MYCORRHIZAE?



Uncolonized



Root colonized by mycorrhizal fungi

Mycorrhizal fungi usually occurs naturally in the soil, forming a close symbiotic relationship with plant roots. Mycorrhizae comes 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 enhances growth and favors rapid development of roots result-

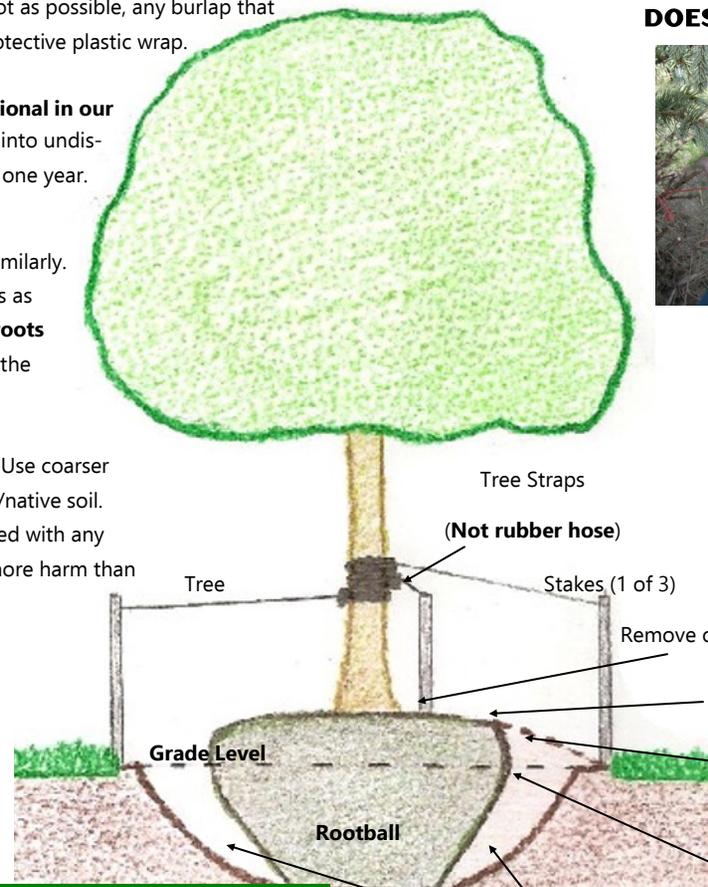
PROPER WATERING IS CRITICAL FOR NEW PLANTS!

Soak the rootball and surrounding backfill slowly and completely when planting. Soak again on a regular basis only when soil 6 inches down and 6 inches outside the rootball is almost dry. Frequency depends on soil type, air temperature, rain, and lawn watering. The only way to water properly is to **CHECK THE SOIL**. Remember that clay soil dries out slower than sandy soil. Potted trees and shrubs may dry out faster than balled and burlaped (B&B) trees due to a light potting mix, but check the soil to be sure. Misting trees is also good. Try to imitate a slow rain. Evergreens especially need this during the winter months. Please contact us if you have questions. We would

DOESN'T NEED WATER



TIME TO WATER!



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

Remove only burlap that touches the trunk, roots will grow through the rest.

2-3 inches of mulch MAX, keep 6 inches away from trunk.

Top of rootball will be **at least 2-4"** above grade, higher in clay soil, and higher on the downs hill side of a slope.

Root flare is at the correct soil depth.

Amended Backfill Soil

Undisturbed soil under rootball. DO NOT "overdig" underneath rootball.

A wide saucer-shaped hole is better for the tree, and easier to plant in! If using an auger make sure to chip the sides of the hole so you don't create a pot like hole that may cause girdling roots.

