

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

For four generations, we have studied thousands of plantings to refine our planting techniques. We have noticed that the method of 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.

1. DIG THE HOLE

- ◆ A wide, saucer-shaped hole is better for the health of the tree/shrub, and easier to plant in!
- ◆ If using an auger, make sure to taper the sides of the hole so you don't create a pot-like hole with smooth sides; this can cause girdling roots.
- ◆ The root flare (where the trunk transitions into the root system) determines the planting depth, not the top of the rootball! Things are not always as they seem in the rootball, so locate the root flare to determine the correct planting depth.
- ◆ TREES- The root flare should be 2-4" above grade, higher in clay soil, and higher on the downhill side of a slope.
- ◆ SHRUBS/PERENNIALS- The root flare should be at the same level as the soil grade, slightly higher for clay soil.

2. PLACE THE TREE

- ◆ Gently roll the tree into the hole. B&B trees should still have the wire cage attached. (*You will be removing part of the wire cage on the B&B trees in step 4*). Container trees should have the bucket removed.

3. STAKE THE TREE

- ◆ **Stakes and ties are required in our windy climate.** Drive stakes into undisturbed soil. Leave staked for one year.
- ◆ 5' metal T-Posts work best. Be sure to use nylon tree straps (and NOT rubber hose) to protect the trunk!

4. CHECK THE ROOTBALL

- ◆ On B&B trees, remove: **at least the top third** of the wire basket (**after the tree is set in the hole and staked**), all twine that is around the trunk, any burlap that touches the trunk, and all protective plastic wrap.
- ◆ Potted and root control bag grown shrubs and trees are planted similarly. Remove all plastic pots/root control bags, and as much of fiber pot as possible. Poke several holes in any remaining fiber pots to allow for oxygen.
- ◆ TREES/SHRUBS/PERENNIALS- Score the roots (aggressively if root bound) with a sharp knife so the roots don't girdle (strangle) the plant. Container plants only (NOT B&B).

5. AMEND THE SOIL

- ◆ Mix native soil with at least 5%, but **no more** than, 20% compost. Use coarser compost in clay soils. Mix soil amendment thoroughly with existing/native soil.
- ◆ Fill the hole with water as you backfill to plant in a slurry.
- ◆ Mycorrhizae can be used with any tree or shrub and will promote a better root system.
- ◆ Over amending does more harm than good. Often, it's also a waste as plants can only use so much organic matter!



6. WATER IT IN

- ◆ This is an important step as proper watering is critical for new plants!
- ◆ Soak the rootball and surrounding backfill slowly and completely when planting.
- ◆ New plant material takes 3-5 years to fully establish, then they'll need less water from you. See the watering guide on the next page!



7. FINISHING TOUCHES

- ◆ Mulch around your trees/shrubs once finished. Mulching keeps the soil cool, moist, keeps weeds down, and adds organic matter to your soil as it decomposes.
- ◆ Use wood mulch- the finer the better!
- ◆ Mulch should be a max of 2-3" deep at the most and about 6" away from the trunk of any trees. Mulching too deep or piling against the trunk of trees/shrubs can cause damage.
- ◆ Rock and rubber mulch are not the best choice. Trees, shrubs, and soil do not benefit from them like they do with organic mulch.

FERTILIZING

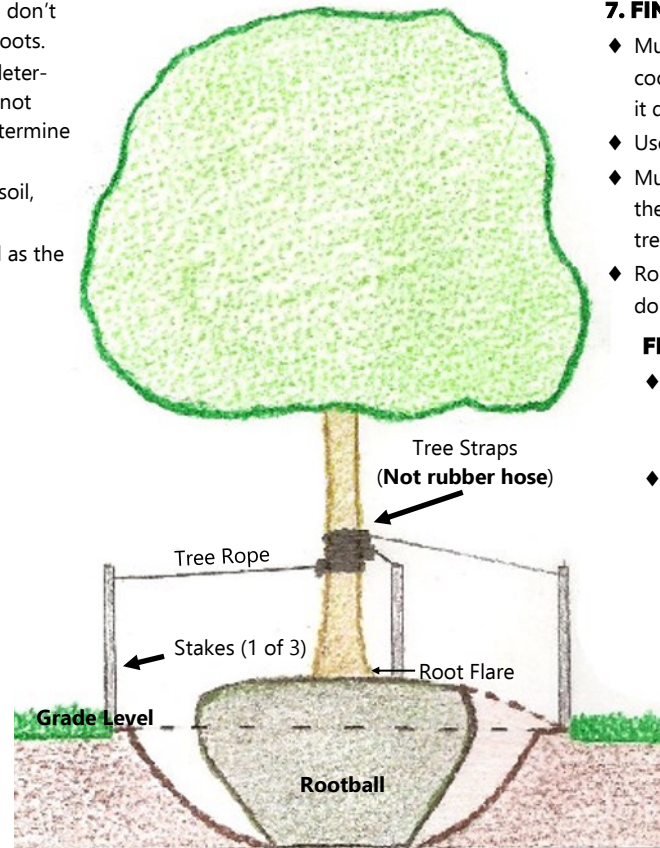
- ◆ We recommend waiting a few years after planting before fertilizing newly planted trees/shrubs with high nitrogen fertilizers so the new plants can focus on root establishment vs. top growth.
- ◆ Fertilizers, like Fish Emulsion and Biosol are low nitrogen organic fertilizers that help with root growth. We have these and other options available for purchase!

BUGS & PESTS

- ◆ All plants may need to be treated or sprayed to prevent certain insects or pests from being a problem. We sell products that can help protect your trees and plants, or we can provide the names of companies that offer these services for you.

TREE WRAP

- ◆ Newly planted deciduous trees are more susceptible to sunscald during winter months on the S/SW side of the trunk that is exposed to the sun. This can cause cracked areas of dead bark. To prevent this damage, wrap the trunk from October to April. ***We carry this product!**



Undisturbed soil under rootball. DO NOT "over dig" underneath

WHAT IS MYCORRHIZAE?

Mycorrhizal fungi usually occurs naturally in the soil, forming a close symbiotic relationship with plant roots that significantly enhance plant growth. In most soils, however, the fungi have been disturbed by residential and/or agricultural practices and the mycorrhizae content is considerably diminished. 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 resulting in more vigorous growing plants.



MORE INFORMATION ON MYCORRHIZAE



Uncolonized Root



Root Colonized by Fungi