



Phantom Gardener Information

# How to Plant a Shrub or Tree

1. ***Dig Planting Hole*** so top of root ball will be even with or slightly above surrounding soil when planting is complete. Diameter of planting hole should be at least a foot larger than root ball diameter.
2. ***Amend Backfill Soil*** with equal parts existing soil and soil conditioner thoroughly mixed. (Try Bumper Crop or Planting Mix!)
3. ***Add Nutrients*** to backfill and mix thoroughly –or if using a water-soluble nutrient, add during watering (step 6). (Try Dr. Earth All Purpose Fertilizer or Espoma Plant Tone)
4. ***Remove Plant from Container***, using a knife score vertically down the root ball 4 or 5 times about 1” deep. Loosen and tease circling, matted roots so they will grow into surrounding soil mix. If planting *a Balled & Burlapped* tree or shrub, place plant in hole and carefully remove all burlap and strings.
5. ***Fill Hole*** with backfill soil 2/3 up sides of root ball. Press or tamp lightly as you backfill so plant is held firmly in place. Finish filling hole making sure top of root ball is even with or slightly above surrounding soil level.
6. ***Water Root Ball and Surrounding Soil Thoroughly*** to settle soil and remove air pockets. (Successive watering should be applied only when soil feels dry about 2” down into root zone.)
7. ***Mulch*** 2” deep with bark mulch.
8. ***Stake*** if necessary.
9. ***Continue Successive Watering*** until frost, when soil feels dry about 2” down into root zone.