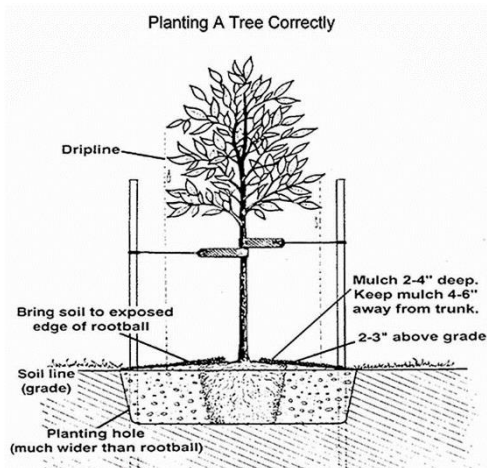


Proper Planting

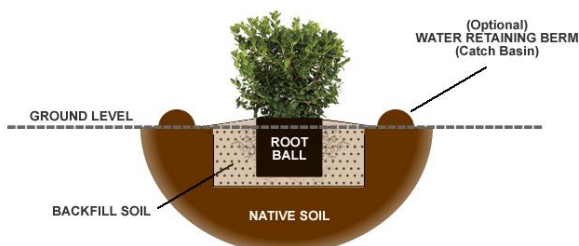
How to Properly Plant a Tree or Shrub

1. Dig a hole 2-3 times as wide as the soil ball.
2. Measure the height of the root ball and subtract the depth of soil over the first root from the height of the root ball.
3. Dig the hole for that adjusted depth and no deeper.
4. After digging the hole roughen up the sides of the hole to help the roots grow into the soil.
5. If the roots of the plant are smaller than the diameter of a pencil and are growing in a circle, make 3-4 shallow cuts down through the roots and the soil ball.



6. Place the plant in the hole and backfill using the original soil dug from the hole. If you have a poor soil a soil amendment can be mixed into the original soil form the hole before it is used to fill the hole.

7. A slow release, complete fertilizer that is high in phosphorus (the middle number) can aid in the development of a strong and healthy root system. If you decide to use fertilizer it should be mixed thoroughly with the original soil from the hole.
8. Once the planting hole is about three quarters full of soil, water thoroughly to remove air pockets before completely filling the hole and watering once again.
9. If you would like to stake your new tree you can purchase one of our ready-made staking kits.



After Planting

After you have planted your tree or shrub it is important to provide proper care. When watering your new plant you want to make sure you check the soil moisture about 4-8 inches down and only water when the soil is dry or only slightly damp. Sandy soils will need to be watered more frequently than clay. When you water make sure to do it deeply and thoroughly because this will encourage a deep and healthy root system that can withstand environmental stress. You can also use a layer of several inches of mulch to help the soil retain moisture and stay a more constant temperature. This can also help prevent weeds around your new plant. When you apply mulch, you should avoid placing any against the stem of your plant and avoid putting too much mulch down. You should use no more than 1" of mulch over the root zone of your new tree or shrub.

How to Properly Plant Annuals and Perennials

1. Arrange your work space so you don't pack the soil in the planting bed unnecessarily.
2. As you plant, keep the soil loose behind you.
3. Using a trowel or small shovel dig the planting pit and remove the plant from the pot.
4. Put the roots into the pot and firm the soil around the plant with your fingers. Leave a depression around the base for water.
5. Leave 2 to 3' of space between the edge of the bed and the first row of plants.
6. Water all of the plants individually with very slow running water and water them each twice.
7. Leggy annuals can be cut back while they are still in the flat or individually as you plant.
8. If the bed will have mulch added keep all mulch away from the base of the plant. And avoid using over 2" of mulch.