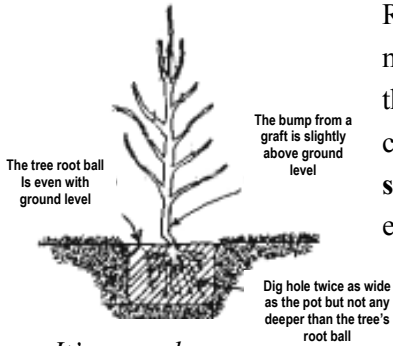


Tree Planting & Care



Planting Potted Trees

Dig a hole twice as wide as the pot but no deeper. The root ball should rest on a solid soil foundation at the bottom of the hole.



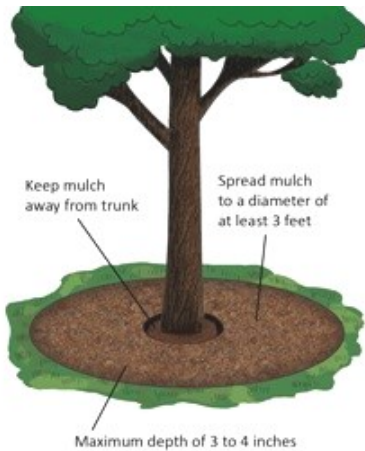
Remove the container before you plant, carefully handling the root ball. A broken root ball can mean a dead plant. **Handle the plant by the root ball and not the trunk** when carefully placing it in the hole. Backfill the hole using mostly the native soil removed from the hole using a up to 50% compost that is well blended with the native soil. At this time **ensure the top of the root ball is slightly above ground level** to allow for settling. The top of the root ball of the tree should be even with the existing ground level (see figure to left). Fill the hole and firm the soil around the plant. **Water thoroughly** to settle the soil around the roots and to eliminate any air pockets.

It's a good idea to use Espoma Bio Tone Starter Plus in the planting hole according to the package directions as a starter supplement and root growth enhancer.



Watering

When watering during the growing season, it is best to **water less frequently BUT thoroughly** than to water more frequently and in small amounts. When watering like this, apply about 10 gallons of water each time but only



when necessary. **Always check for soil moisture at a 3" depth prior to watering.** Usually, with well drained soil, one inch of water every 7-10 days should be sufficient; for a heavy soil, every 14 days. If you have questions on specific plant varieties and soil types, please call any time for help and more information.

It is very important all trees go into winter with ample moisture. If there has been adequate rainfall during fall the amount of watering will be less. You may need to give the tree a watering before the ground freezes.

After the first fall, you will not need to water your new tree further unless we face a severe drought next summer.

Mulch helps preserve moisture and keep the soil cool.

Winter care

We recommend newly planted trees be **wrapped with a white protective tree wrap late in the fall** to help protect against sun scald and rodent and rabbit damage during winter. **Remove wrap in the spring.** This practice should be continued every year until the bark begins to roughen. The wrap should extend from the ground up to the first tier of branches. Fiber reinforced tape works best to hold up the wrap.



Unprotected shrub damaged by rabbits.



A well-wrapped and well-mulched tree.

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