

# Planting Containerized (Potted) Plants

1. Handle plant only by the container.
2. Dig hole as deep as the container, and 2 to 3 times as wide as the diameter of the container.
3. Carefully remove plant from the container.
4. If the roots are massed, tease them out with your fingers or hand-held cultivator, or use a knife to make vertical cuts. This encourages the roots to grow outward into the new soil and not girdle the plant. Trim back any roots that are broken.
5. Make sure the top of the plant's soil is *level* with the surrounding soil.
  - ✓ Do not dig the hole any deeper than the root ball, or bury the branches or trunk; planting too deep can cause the plant to decline and die.
  - ✓ An exception to the rule: If the soil is 'heavy' (clay), place the top of the ball about 1" higher than the surrounding soil.
6. Backfill the hole halfway and thoroughly water to settle the soil.
7. Add the remaining backfill.
8. Build a 3-4" tall saucer, or berm, at the outside edge of the original container ball to hold water. Slowly add water to the saucer, filling it to the brim.



# After-Care

**Watering:** Proper watering is necessary for establishment and long-term plant health. Over- or under-watering can be fatal for any plant. If rainfall has been adequate (an inch of rain per week), you may not need supplemental water. Otherwise, 1" of water (a good deep watering) every 5 to 7 days (especially during the summer) is usually adequate for the first two years. Use a soaker hose to conserve water and get water to the root zone area where it's needed. Organic mulch will decompose over time; reapply mulch as needed to maintain a 2-3" layer.

**Pruning:** At the time of planting, only prune to remove damaged and/or diseased branches. With trees, structural pruning is generally done several years after planting.

**Note:** Newly planted trees and shrubs may not always put forth significant new top growth during the first year or two because most of its energy goes toward root growth at this time. Be patient.

### One-Year Woody Plant GUARANTEE

We guarantee all hardy woody plants planted in the ground for one year from the date of purchase. Please show your dated register receipt and the dead plant to receive the full guarantee. A store credit in the amount of the original purchase will be issued towards a replacement plant. Roses are guaranteed to November 1st of the same year purchased.

## Shopping List:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milorganite           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mulch       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Espoma Bone Meal      | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden hose |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organic matter        | <input type="checkbox"/> Soaker hose |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Espoma Soil Perfector | <input type="checkbox"/> Shovel      |

# For All Your Planting Needs

## Holly-tone OR Plant-tone

**Holly-tone** is for planting and feeding acid-loving plants. **Plant-tone** is an all-natural, organic plant food and soil conditioner.

## Bio-tone Starter Microbial Plant Food

Jump-starts your plants... more blooms, better color, stronger roots.

## Soil Perfector

All natural soil conditioner. One application *permanently* improves the structure of any soil. Great for growing flowers and vegetables, too.

## Bone Meal

4-12-0. The finest available. Helps develop sturdy root systems and stimulates plant growth. An ideal supplement to fertilizers for bulbs, flowers and roses. All natural. Approved for organic gardening.



# How To Plant

Your Guide to Planting Trees and Shrubs in the Landscape



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516-334-0066 • [www.hicksnurseries.com](http://www.hicksnurseries.com)



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## Before You Plant

1. Assess the site before you select, buy and plant your tree and/or shrub. Select the right plant for the right place. The points to consider are:
  - ✓ Sun versus shade
  - ✓ Windy locations
  - ✓ Hardiness zone
  - ✓ Poorly drained or wet areas
  - ✓ Soil pH
2. Know the pH requirements of the plant(s) before you plant. Have a pH test done before you add any lime to the planting site. A soil test can determine the existing pH of a given soil. Bring a half-cup of DRY soil to our Lawn and Garden Information Desk; we will gladly test your soil's pH for FREE. If you're uncertain about what plant(s) to use, ask one of our certified nursery professionals for advice.

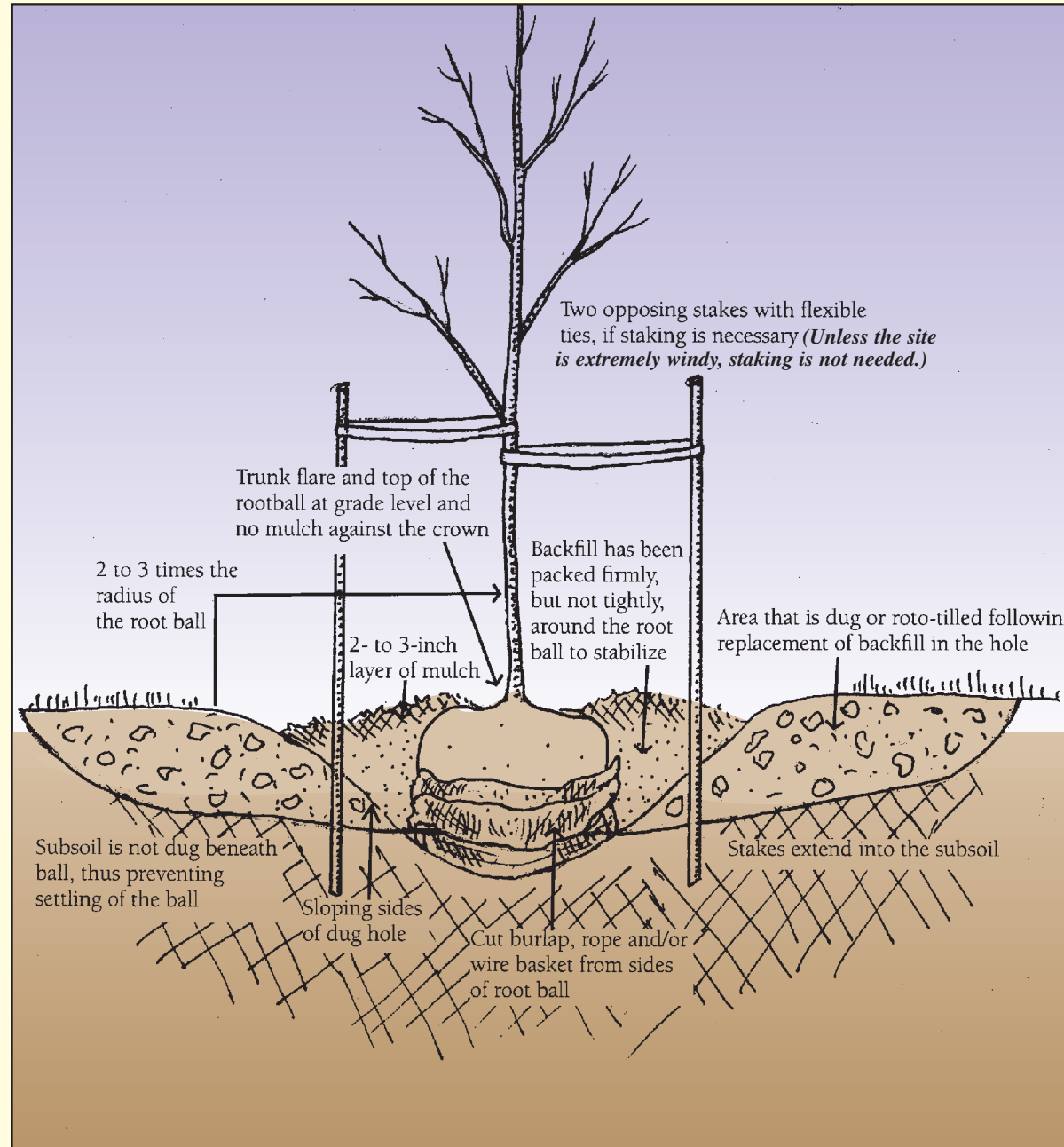


## Preparing the Planting Hole

1. Dig the hole as deep as, and 2 to 3 times as wide as, the original soil ball or container diameter. If the soil is especially sandy or has a lot of clay, amend it with organic matter such as compost, peat moss, composted cow manure, or Espoma Soil Perfector. Otherwise, the soil or backfill that comes out of the hole is what goes back in.
2. Slope the sides of the upper portion of the hole. Scrape the sides of the planting hole (if it appears smooth or glazed) using a garden fork or hand held cultivator.
3. An organic plant food, such as Milorganite or Espoma Bone Meal, can be mixed into the soil at the time of planting to help get plants off to a good start.

# Planting Instructions for Trees and Shrubs

Trees and shrubs add year 'round beauty, interest and value to the landscape. Properly planted and cared for trees and shrubs will add years of enjoyment to your property.



## Planting Balled and Burlapped Plants

1. Lift balled plant only by the ball, never by the above-ground portion. Set in planting hole.
2. Make sure the top of the root ball is level with the surrounding soil.
  - ✓ Do not dig the hole any deeper than the root ball.
  - ✓ Do not bury the branches or trunk; planting too deep can eventually cause the plant to decline and die.
  - ✓ An exception to the rule: If the soil is 'heavy' (clay), place the top of the ball about 1" higher than the surrounding soil.
3. Untie natural burlap, cut it off or tuck it down into the hole and remove all twine. Synthetic burlap, ropes or twine should always be completely removed. Remove the top tiers of the wire if the plant is in a metal planting cage. Trim off any roots that are broken.
4. Backfill the hole halfway and thoroughly water to settle the soil.
5. Add remaining backfill.
6. Build a 3-4" tall saucer, or berm, of backfill at the outside edge of the original soil ball to hold water. Add water slowly.
7. Apply a 2-3" layer of mulch in the saucer. Keep mulch a few inches away from the stems or trunk of the plant.



Illustration is from Cornell University Cooperative Extension Information Bulletin # 24, The Cornell Guide for Planting and Maintaining Trees and Shrubs, George L. Good and Richard Weir III