

# Planting Trees and Shrubs

Plants are living things that need careful attention. In order to preserve the life of your plants and avoid expense, inconvenience and loss of several season's growth that comes with replanting, please plant carefully. By following these instructions closely you will assuredly become highly successful in all of your plantings.

1. Plant fresh nursery stock any time of the year immediately after purchasing it.
2. Choose a site that is suitable to the cultural needs of the plant, (sun vs. shade; moist vs. dry soil; etc.) Most plants like good drainage.
3. Dig a hole about two times wider than the root ball and six inches deeper.
4. Mix peat moss or compost (1part to 2 parts soil) and Milorganite or Bone Meal into the soil on the bottom of the hole and into soil used for back-filling.
5. A container grown, potted plant must have its outer roots loosened around the perimeter of the root ball.
6. Before setting your plant in the hole, be sure hole is backfilled with enriched soil and is no deeper than the depth of the root ball. The top of the ball must be level with the general ground level.
7. Set the plant in the hole and turn its best side to face the direction from which it will most often be viewed.
8. Cut the strings around the trunk and root ball and loosen the burlap around the trunk.
  - True burlap (natural fiber) may be left on the root ball. Plastic burlap should be removed entirely if the root ball is firm. If the root ball is not firm, cut away as much plastic as possible. In no case should the root ball be allowed to break up.
9. Fill the hole  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with soil mixture, firming soil with foot to eliminate air pockets, water deeply and then finish filling the hole.
10. Use excess soil to make a circular dike just outside of the root zone to hold water; water again. Water your plant deeply twice a week during its first growing season, once weekly thereafter using a soaker hose or slow trickle from a garden hose.
11. Mulch the root zone with 2-3 inches of wood or bark chips, stones, etc. (not peat moss) to preserve moisture and control weeds.

## Additional Instructions for Shade Trees

- A shade tree should have half of its side branches cut back to ensure vigorous growth in its new location. Do not cut back the central trunk or leader.
- Stake a shade tree only if you are planting it in a very windy location and protection from damage is needed. Use the stakes for one to two years depending on the size of your tree.
- Fertilize your shade tree in the spring and fall with a high nitrogen fertilizer such as Milorganite or Jobes Tree Spikes.
- Water it deeply once a week during hot, dry weather.
- Occasionally inspect it for insects or disease and treat the problem accordingly. (We can help you determine your problem and solution).

We are always ready and eager to help you in the planting and care for your plants so that you may appreciate their functional value and enjoy their great beauty.

## Most Common Planting Mistakes

- Planting too deep
- Piling excess soil over root zone
- Root not loosened on container plants
- Planting area poorly drained
- Delayed planting with plants drying out
- Improper siting
- Planting too close to building, plants, etc.
- Too much nitrogen fertilizer
- Failure to water or improper watering
- Poor selection of plant type for the site

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