

Planting Instructions for Trees, Shrubs & Perennials

Dig the planting hole and discard the old soil. The hole should be dug at a depth so that 1/8 of the rootball will sit above the ground. Planting trees, shrubs and perennials too deep is a major cause of plant death. The hole should be twice as wide as the rootball.

Prepare the soil mixture. Use a mix of 1/3 loam, 1/3 compost, and 1/3 peat moss in the hole. Do not use topsoil as a soil conditioner. Mix thoroughly.

If the plant is in a pot: Remove the plant carefully from its pot by laying it on its side and lightly tapping the sides of the container. Gently slide the plant out of the pot sideways. Always handle the plant by its rootball. Use a sharp knife to make slits down the sides of the rootball. This will help the root system to grow into the existing soil.

Roll the plant into the hole. Never drop the rootball because it may damage the roots. If the plant is in a burlaped rootball, cut the rope and burlap away from the top of the rootball, after the plant is in the soil mixture. Fill with water and let absorb. Repeat watering. Pack down the soil so there are no air pockets. Do not put soil on top of the rootball.

Mulch around the base of the plant. The mulch should be 2-3 " deep, but no more than 3". Do not pile mulch around the trunk (like a teepee or volcano)

To stake a tree: Hammer a stake into the ground about 6" beyond the edge of the hole. Attach biodegradable rope tightly around the stake and loosely around the trunk. Remove the stakes in 6 months or in 12 months if the location is windy. Water the plant thoroughly following our instructions.

Prune out any broken branches. Remove labels and tags.