

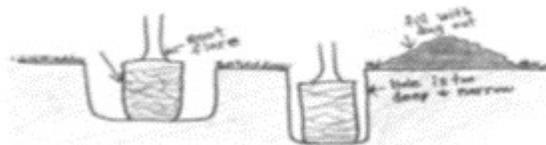
Tree and Shrub Planting



Properly planting and watering your plants are the two most important steps in plant care. Planting too deep or applying too much or too little water are often the reason a plant does not survive.

How do you plant a tree or shrub?

Holes should be dug 2-3 times wider than the root ball (in bare roots the root width) in a bowl shape. Dig the hole only to the depth to where the first lateral root (the root flare) is at the soil surface. Digging deeper will cause the plant to settle, decreasing oxygen flow to the roots and will kill the plant. Place Agriform fertilizer tablets in the hole, away from where the roots will directly touch them. Plants in 2-5 gallon containers need 2 tablets, 10 gallon 5 tablets and 15 gallon 6 tablets. Remove the plant from the growing container and examine the roots. It is common for circling roots, slice the roots at a depth of $\frac{3}{4}$ " or more to free the roots, and tease them to grow out into the soil. Place the plant in the middle of the hole, making sure that the root flare is even with the soil line (see diagram). Backfill the hole with existing soil, packing the soil so it is firm but not to the point of tight compaction. Trees can be staked if needed but the stakes should be removed after one year to reduce the dependency of the stake.



Watering your plants after planting

Watering your plants is the most important job to keep your plants alive. Always water your plant at the time of planting. This is an important step that will help release excess air bubbles and pack the soil around the root zone. At the time of the first watering, use Fertilome Root Stimulator mixed in the water, which encourages important feeder roots to grow. Apply it once a week for a minimum of 4 weeks. The first month after planting, extra watering is needed to account for the small root area. Deep, infrequent watering is best to encourage root growth. Water your plants in the morning, and always avoid wetting the leaves of the plant. Monitor daily for water, if the soil is starting to dry, or the leaves are wilting and have a gray hue then watering is needed. Otherwise, plan on watering your plants every 3-4 days. Setting a hose on the soil near each plant is best. Shrubs and perennials, should be watered at a slow trickle for 15-20 minutes (2 gallons or more), trees 10 gallon or larger, the hose should run for at least 45 minutes (8-10 gallons or more) each tree. As the season progresses watering can be less frequent. If you have a lawn sprinkler system, this does not count as watering trees or shrubs.