

# Planting Basketed Trees

## 1. Getting Ready

- ✓ Make sure that the tree you choose is suited for your location. Some trees thrive in wet locations where others will suffer, some flourish in rich soils while others do best in sandy spots.
- ✓ Have some extra garden soil mix of 1 part compost to 2 parts top soil on hand to back fill the hole.

## 2. Preparing the Hole

- ✓ Acquire an empty basket from us that is the same size as the root ball on your tree. All that requires is a \$5.00 fully refundable deposit. Using it as a template means less guess work about hole size. Dig hole to basket depth and no deeper. **Correct planting depth is critical.** You want the top of the basket to be level with the surrounding soil. Planting too deep can suffocate the roots. Dig your hole 6-8" wider than the basket on all sides for the top 12" then narrow down to 2" wider at the point. Digging too big a hole, especially in heavier clay soil, creates a sink hole that will fill with water and keep the root ball overly wet. If the sides of the hole are dense clay, cut slices into the sides with the shovel to aid roots in penetrating. Scatter bone meal in the hole using approximately 2 cups.

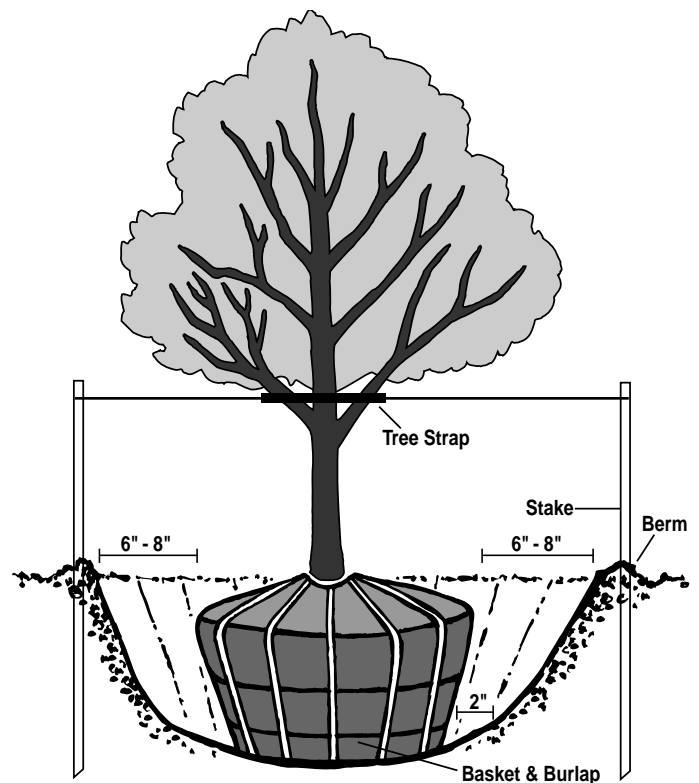
## 3. Planting

- ✓ Measure the root ball and the hole before sliding the tree into place to double check depth. Lifting a tree back out of the hole because of improper depth is not fun! **Do not remove the basket or burlap.** Place tree in hole and straighten. Back fill with garden soil or mix packing it around the root ball as you go to stabilize.
- ✓ Cut and remove the strapping that is around the trunk and remove the top burlap ( the rest will quickly decompose). Top wire loops can be bent back and buried or cut off.
- ✓ Finish packing soil mix around sides. Build a berm around tree as wide as the original basket to hold water. Water well, allowing water to slowly saturate the soil. Liquid Transplanter or 10-52-10 should be used every 2 weeks for 3 applications.
- ✓ Large trees need to be staked for 2 years. Leaf trees are generally staked to the NW and the SE (our prevailing wind directions) and tied 3-4' above ground

using a proper tree strap. Evergreens are staked to three sides using short pegs and guide wires. Be sure to check periodically that straps are not cutting into the trunk.

## 4. After Planting Care

- ✓ Water newly planted trees about every 10 days. Check if the soil is dry 3-4" down, if it is – water. 2" caliper trees will require about 15 gal of water to fully wet the root ball. During dry, hot weather check every 5 days. Do not rely on lawn sprinklers or rainfall of less than 1". Be aware that when a tree looks wilted it may be from either too much or too little water. If your tree looks wilted and you water it well the leaves should come back up in a few hours. If not, the problem was too much water, not too little. Mountain ash, schubert chokecherry, amur cherry, mayday, and spruce are a few that are sensitive to too much water. Beware of sites where water pools.
- ✓ Do not use landscape fabric and mulch over newly planted trees.



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# Planting Potted Trees and Shrubs

## 1. Getting Ready

- ✓ First make sure that the plants you choose are well suited for your location.
- ✓ Prepare a soil mix of 1 part compost to 2 parts top soil and put to the side.
- ✓ Dig a hole a minimum of 6" wider and 3" deeper than the root ball in the pot. If the sides of the hole are dense clay cut slices into the sides with the shovel to aid roots in breaking through. Fill the bottom with 3" of soil mix and tamp down firmly. Scatter bone meal in the hole - 1/4 cup for small shrubs, 1/2 cup for large shrubs and 1 cup for trees.
- ✓ With all plants it's important that they are planted as close to their original growing depth as possible. Planting too deep or too shallow can cause stress and the plant may die. The top of the root ball should be level with the surrounding soil.

## 2. Planting

The method of planting varies with how the root ball was grown:

- ✓ **Plastic Pots:** Plants in plastic pots are usually rooted thoroughly and have a solid root ball. Follow the Getting Ready instructions then for shrubs gently tip the plant over completely, cupping the top of the root ball in your palm and tap off the pot. The easiest way to handle trees in plastic pots is to lie them over and remove the pot. If the pot doesn't come away easily or the root ball seems loose it is best to cut the pot away from the root ball. If the roots are tightly packed to the outside gently tease the outer most roots away before planting to encourage them to root outward. Gently tip the plant back upright supporting the bottom and place in the hole. The top of the root ball should be level with the surrounding soil. Plants with a very tight root ball will require regular soaking throughout the first season (up to once a day in hot weather).
- ✓ **Fibre Pots:** Plants in fibre pots need to be gently handled. Follow the getting ready instructions then grab a utility knife. Starting at the top cut down 3" then

lift the knife and skip 2", poke the knife back in and finish the cut to the bottom. Tip the pot over on its side and cut off the entire bottom. Place your hand across the bottom, slide the pot gently into the hole with your hand underneath, tip it upright removing your hand and then pack soil around the sides of the pot. When you've packed near the top twist the pot and break apart those uncut 2". Remove the pot and continue to fill the hole with mix tucking the soil around firmly.

## 3. Finishing Up

- ✓ Pack the soil mix firmly around the ball and create a small brim at the base of the plant just outside the edge of the root ball to hold water. Water with a transplant fertilizer such as liquid Transplanter or 10-52-10. Repeat the application 3 times at 2 week intervals.
- ✓ Trees should be staked if in windy locations. Stake on two sides using a proper tree strap, leave for 1-2 yrs. Check regularly that straps are not cutting into the tree.

## 4. After-Planting Care

- ✓ How often to water depends on various conditions. To determine if a plant needs water, probe carefully close to the root ball and check the moisture level 2-3" down. Be aware that a plant that is too wet will wilt similarly to one that is too dry. When it is time to water, newly planted plants benefit from deep soaking. Turn the hose on low, place it close to the base of the plant and allow water to soak into the root area over an extended period of time (5 to 20 minutes depending on size) then let the top 2-3" dry before watering again. This encourages deep root production.

We do not recommend placing fabric and mulch over top for the first year after planting as it makes it difficult to determine water requirements and may compact the soil and keep it too wet.



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*We guarantee all plants are healthy at the time of sale. In the unlikely event that your plant dies within one calendar year from the date of purchase you will receive a credit of 50% of the purchase price, once, to be used toward a replacement product. Proof of purchase is required and the plant must have been properly planted and maintained. There is no replacement on perennials, sale items and plants sold at wholesale prices. Sorry, no refunds or returns.*