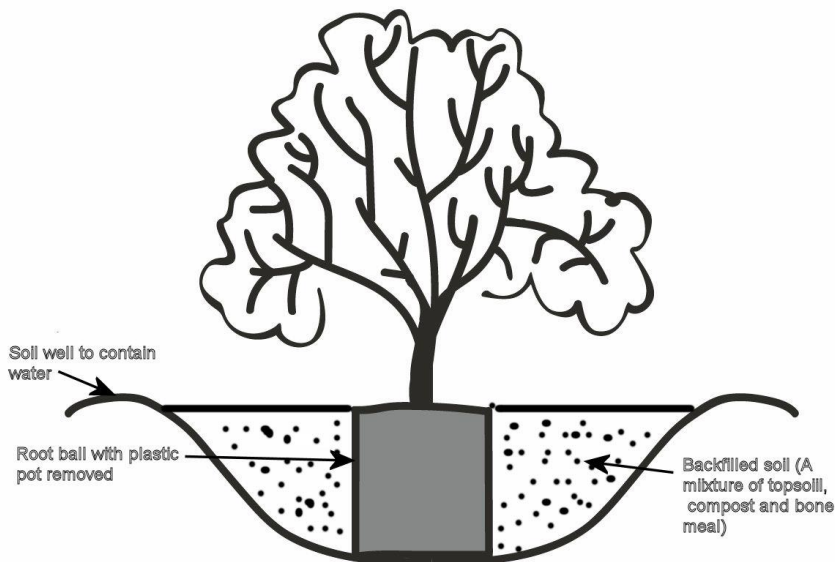


# Planting Potted Tree, Shrubs & Perennials

## Step 1: Getting Ready

- ✓ First make sure that the plants you have chosen are suited for your location.
- ✓ Have some extra garden soil (a mix of 1 part compost to 2 parts topsoil) on hand to backfill the hole.
- ✓ 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 – ¼ cup for small shrubs, ½ for large shrubs and 1 cup for potted 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.



## Step 2: Planting

- ✓ **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 massage 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.

### Step 3: Finishing Up

- ✓ Finish packing the soil mix around the sides of the root ball. Pack the soil 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 years. Check regularly that straps are not cutting into the tree.

### Step 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 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 landscape 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.**