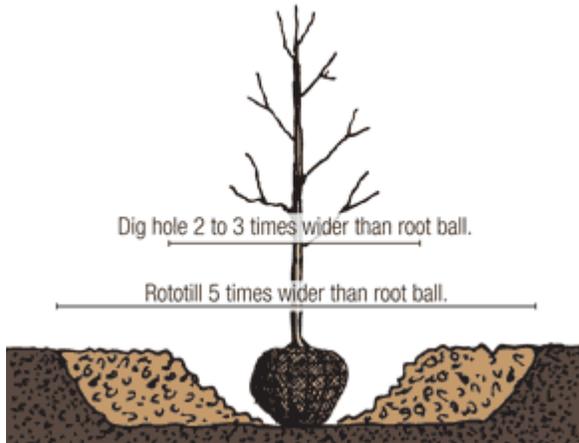


Instructions

1. You'll need to dig a saucer-shaped hole. If you can, rototill an area five times the diameter and as deep as the root ball. The prepared soil will make the hole easier to dig and encourage root growth. Measure the depth of the root ball to make sure the root collar will be 1 – 2" above ground level when your tree is planted.



2. Dig the hole 2 or 3 times as wide and as deep as the root ball. The hole should have sloping sides, and don't disturb the soil at the bottom of the hole.



3. Set the tree in the center of the hole. When moving the tree, handle it by the root ball. Don't move or lift the tree by the trunk as this can cause the root ball to separate from the trunk. Check the planting depth. If the root collar is below ground level, compact some soil under the root ball to bring the root collar up to 1 – 2" above ground level.

4. Once the tree is in position, use wire cutters to cut the top 2/3 of the wire basket away. Remove all the rope and twine from the ball. Pull the burlap back and cut away any loose material. Don't worry about regular burlap under the root ball. It can stay put. But vinyl or treated burlap should be removed completely.

5. Make sure your tree is straight by adjusting the root ball and firmly packing soil beneath. Add your root rally and soil amendments to the topsoil that will be used to backfill the planting pit. Loosely fill the planting hole with the amended backfill. (do not compact the soil around the root ball).



6. B&B trees should be staked so they do not blow over during a windstorm. Deciduous trees should have two stakes, normally east to west if that is the prevailing wind. Use a tree strap around the trunk of the tree to prevent damage (do not use wire or rope, this will cut into the bark of the tree and kill it). For evergreen trees you should use three stakes.

7. Create a water-holding basin around the tree and give the tree a good watering. After the water has soaked in, repair any sunken areas in the backfill, spread protective mulch 2-4 inches deep covering the entire area of backfilled soil, and keep the mulch 4 inches away from the trunk.

8. The soil and mulch around your trees should be kept moist but not soggy, watering requirements will vary per your soil type. We recommend using a soil moisture meter to determine your watering requirements.



9. Remove any tags and labels from the tree as these will affect the tree as it grows. You may need to prune any broken or dead branches.