

### B&B Planting Instructions

1. Dig a saucer shaped hole, twice the diameter of the root ball. Measure the height of the root ball and insure that the tree collar will be 1-2" above ground level when your tree is planted.
2. Set the tree in the center of the hole. When moving the tree, handle it by the root ball. Don't move or lift 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.
3. 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.
4. Make sure the tree is straight by adjusting the root ball and firmly packing soil beneath. Add Sweetwater Garden Premium Mulch to the soil that will be used for backfilling. Loosely fill the planting hole with the amended backfill, do not compact the soil around the root ball.
5. B&B trees should be staked so they do not blow over during a windstorm. Deciduous trees should have two stakes, normally set east to west if that is the prevailing wind. Use a tree strap around the trunk of the tree to prevent damage. For evergreen trees, you should use three stakes in a triangle around the tree.
6. 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, keeping the mulch 3-4" away from the trunk.
7. The soil and mulch around your tree should be kept moist but not soggy, watering requirement will vary per your soil type and exposure. We recommend using a soil moisture meter to determine your water requirements.