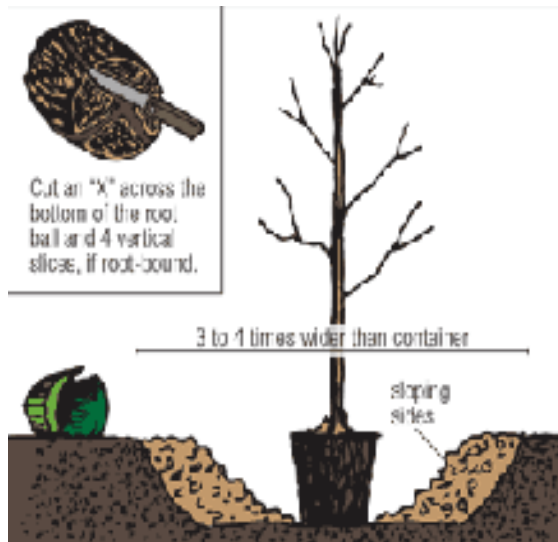


Container Planting Instructions

1. Dig a hole 3 to 4 times wider than the container. The hole should have sloping sides like a saucer to allow for proper root growth.
2. Carefully remove the tree or shrub from the container keeping the soil around the roots intact. It helps to tap the outside of the container to loosen the edges. Carefully slide the tree or shrub from the container. Don't yank the tree out of the container as this can separate the roots from the plant.
3. Sometimes container plants become root-bound or the roots look like they are about to circle the root ball. If your plant is like this, cut an X across the bottom of the root ball and four vertical slices along the sides of the root ball with a sharp knife.



4. Set the plant in the middle of the hole. Avoid planting the tree too deep. If the root collar sits below the top of the hole, compact some soil under the plant so that the root flare at the base of the trunk is slightly above ground level. Using some soil, secure the tree in a straight position, then fill the hole with amended topsoil. Keep backfilling until the soil is just below the root collar.
5. Create a water-holding basin around the hole and give the tree a good watering, fixing any void or sunken areas. After the water has soaked in, spread protective mulch 3-4" deep in a 3' diameter area around the base of the plant, but not touching the plant.