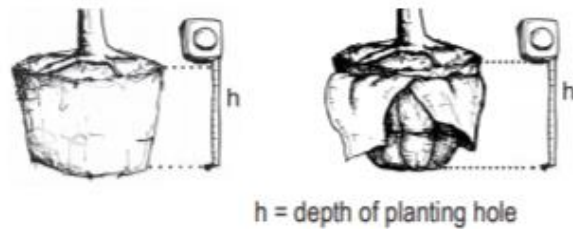




Planting Guide for Trees and Shrubs

- Before digging, always check where buried underground utility lines are placed. Call 1-800-DIG-RITE (344-7483) for utility locates. Please note that utility locates will not mark for underground irrigation lines, dog fencing, or un-permitted/unknown buried utility locations.
- Prepare the hole 1.5-2 times the width of root ball and as deep as the root ball minus 1-2" so that when placed in the hole, 1-2" of root ball is above the soil surface. Locate trunk flair and ensure this is above current soil grade. If planting on a steep hillside, use the uphill grade for measuring the planting hole depth.



- If the tree or shrub is container grown, remove plant from container, carefully loosen root ball with your fingers, and cut any circling roots to prevent stem girdling.
- If the tree or shrub is balled and burlapped, completely remove any twine and peel back any burlap from the top of the root ball after positioning plant in the hole. It may be necessary to carefully remove a small portion of soil from the top of the root ball if the trunk flair or root collar is not exposed. Leave the burlap and wire cage on, removing these will void warranty. It is permissible to cut off any excessive burlap peeled from the top; however, you must leave the burlap down the side of the root ball. It is also permissible to bend back or cut the top loops (only) of the wire cage if it is protruding obnoxiously out of soil to prevent a trip hazard.



- Back fill the hole after the tree is positioned and sitting straight with native soil and compost mix. Do not backfill with straight compost because this can burn any establishing roots. Make sure to adequately compact the soil as you backfill the hole to prevent the tree or shrub from leaning due to soil settling. Typically, using your foot and body weight is sufficient for adequate soil compaction around the root ball. Do not use a machine or vehicle to compact the surrounding soil.
- We do not recommend fertilizing the tree within the first year of planting unless it is showing a nutrient deficiency diagnosed by a garden professional. Root stimulators, or mycorrhizae are okay to use per labeled application directions, but not necessary for plant establishment.

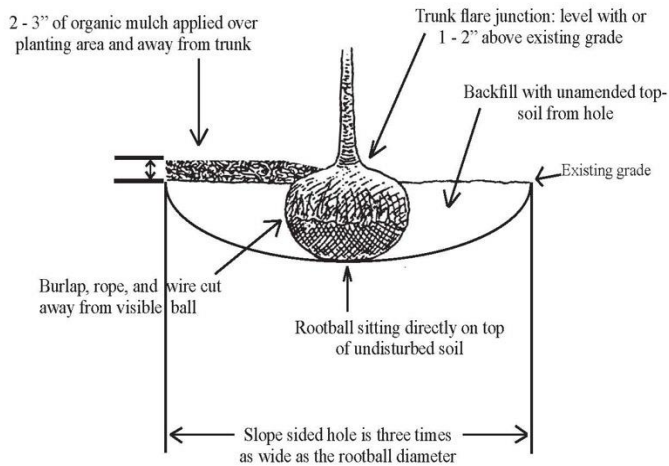
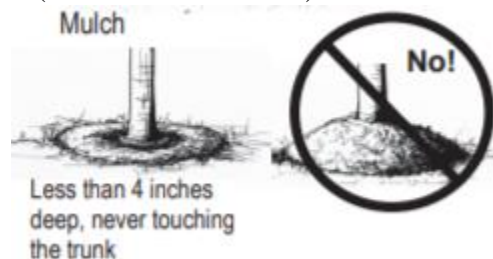


Diagram illustrating proper planting procedure for a tree or shrub.

- We do not recommend staking newly planted trees or shrubs, except for windy sites. Staking impedes trunk and root development, adding to the time necessary for root establishment and stem strength.
- Apply a 2-3" layer of mulch after backfilling hole to cover the disturbed soil area. Be sure to maintain an unmulched distance of approximately 1-inch around the circumference of the trunk/stem to prevent moisture from being held against the trunk (which incites diseases).



- If deer are a concern, we recommend using wire caging or plastic piping to protect the tree trunk from being damaged. Make sure the deer protection is not tight against the trunk which could result in stem or trunk damage.
- Water slowly and deeply after planting with hose (do not depend on irrigation alone for the first year), letting the plant slowly drink for 20 minutes to an hour depending on plant size. Water every 3-4 days during peak heat in the summer, and occasionally through winter when temperatures are above 40 degrees. Follow this watering regiment for the first 2-3 years after plant installation. We recommend the purchase of a simple moisture meter that you stick in the root ball to access the current moisture of the plant to determine if you need to water. Readings should be in the moist to dry reading to initiate watering. Wet plant material needs to dry down to prevent root rot.
- We do not recommend major pruning or trimming for the first year after planting. Exceptions to this would be broken/damaged branches, dead branches, or badly cross-grown branches.
- Fertilize (if desired) after the first year with a simple N-P-K fertilizer. We recommend using organic fertilizers whenever possible. Always follow the label instructions for application rates, timing, and frequency. Do not over-apply fertilizers as this can cause more harm than good.

As always you can reach out to us at info@chesterfieldvalleynursery.com or call us at 636-532-9307 if you need any specific questions answered. If more in-depth recommendations or advice is required, we recommend contacting your local University of Missouri Extension office, or the Missouri Botanical Garden Kemper Center for the best scientific-based advice.