

Planting Trees and Shrubs



Follow these easy steps when planting your trees, shrubs or perennials for the best results!

Step 1: Dig a hole

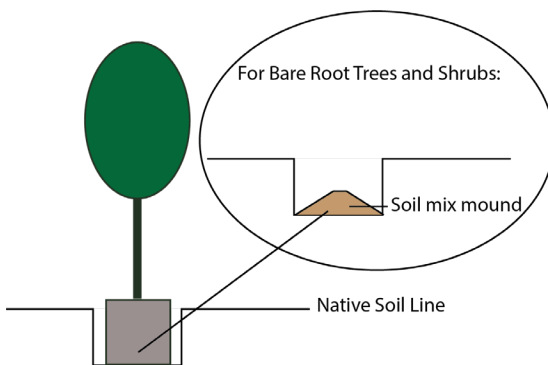
Dig a hole that is the same depth and about twice as wide as your plant's root ball. Save the soil you dig out of the hole to put back in, even if it is poor soil. Your plant needs to get used to it anyway. You can discard larger rocks, sticks and roots that came out of the hole.



Step 2: Mix your soil

Take approximately one-half of the soil you dug out of the hole and mix it with the same amount of EB Stone Planting Compost. This will create a transition zone for your roots, helping them acclimate to your native soil.

For containered trees and shrubs, remove the container and set your tree or shrub



in the hole with the top of the rootball even with your native soil line. Do not break up the rootball. If your tree or shrub is in a burlap sack, leave it in the burlap and set it in the hole. The strings that are tied around the trunk should be just above your native soil line.

If it is bare-root, remove any packaging and soil from the roots and dip them in water. Use the soil mix to create a mound in the center of the hole and spread the roots out around the mound as best as you can. The top root should be just below the native soil line.

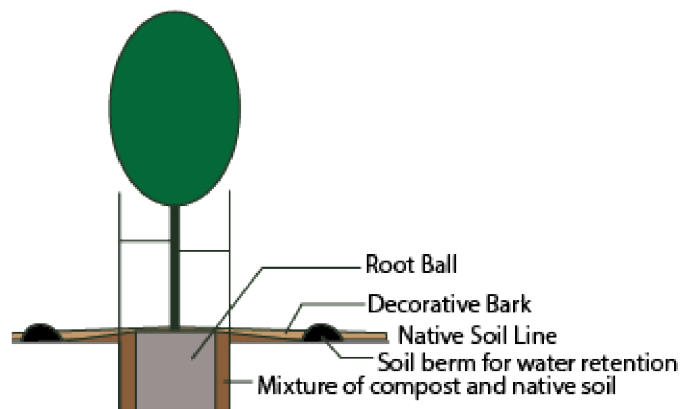
Step 3: Stake and Backfill:

If your tree needs staked, set the stakes on either side of the rootball, perpendicular to the prevailing winds. Tap them into place so they don't fall over when you backfill your hole.

Take the soil mix you made and carefully fill around the rootball loosely. Pack the soil mix firmly leaving about half of the rootball exposed. If your plant is wrapped in burlap, cut the strings and peel the burlap down. No need to remove the burlap, it will quickly rot away.



Add your fertilizer or mycorrhizae tablets and back fill the rest of the way with the soil-compost mix, packing firmly. You should finish with the top of your rootball even with the native soil line, or slightly higher (for plants that need better drainage, or in heavy clay soils, leave the rootball 1-2 inches above the native soil line and mound the soil mix up to it. See illustration).



Step 4: Watering

Build a shallow dam of soil around the edge of the hole to hold water. If you are watering with a drip system, add drippers now.

To aid in getting the water to the deeper roots of trees, consider adding Deep Drip watering stakes. These hollow stakes will help get the water to where the tree needs it.



If you cannot water with drippers, consider adding a water bag. These need filled only once or twice weekly in summer.



Tie your trees to the stakes using a flat, flexible material such as Stretch-Tie. This will reduce the chances of girdling, or cutting off circulation from twine, wire and other round materials.



Apply a mulch layer of your choice to the depth of 2"-3" outside of the rootball area, and only up to 1" deep around the trunk (beneath the foliage on shrubs) and then water thoroughly. Remove any tags and ribbons, saving your tags for future reference.

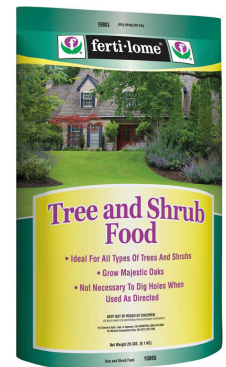
Step 5: Continuing Care

Daily: Keep your newly planted trees and shrubs evenly moist. Do not allow them to dry out the first year. Over-watering can be even worse than underwatering, so be sure not to overdo it. The key is 'evenly moist, not soggy'. In some cases this means daily watering but not always. Check the soil daily for the first few weeks until you get an idea how long it takes for them to dry out.

Weekly: Check your water holding dam and shore it up if necessary. If your tree is staked, check to make sure the stakes are still firm and the tree is still straight, especially after a strong wind.

Monthly: Look for odd growth such as suckers and lop-sided growth spurts and prune them off. A small amount of pruning can be done just about any time of year. If your plant flowers, wait until it is through blooming before pruning. Inspect for damage from insects or diseases. If something doesn't look right to you, bring us a sample in a sealed plastic bag for identification.

Annually: Remove any stakes and ties after 6 months. Fertilize your plants annually in spring with Fertilome Tree and Shrub Food. Check your mulch layer and add fresh mulch if needed. Check to see if you need to add extra drip lines if you are watering with a drip system. Watering needs change as trees and shrubs grow.



Our plants are guaranteed to be healthy and free from insect and disease problems at the time they leave the nursery. If you are having trouble, bring us a sample and we will check it out to see what the problem might be. If you plant your trees and/or shrubs according to these instructions, we will warrantee them for one full year from the date of purchase, providing proper care. Any circumstances that are out of our control such as under or over watering, animal or insect damage that happens after leaving the nursery, improper planting, weather events, etc. cannot and will not be warrantee. This warrantee is limited to trees, shrubs and perennials hardy to your climate zone. Other limits may also apply.

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