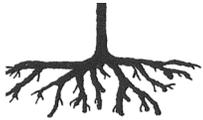


Best Planting Practices for Trees

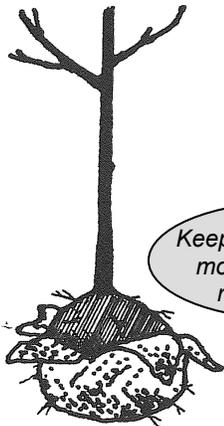
Planting a tree! - Successful planting depends on the hole you dig. *Structural roots* anchor the tree and provide the framework for the absorbing roots. *Absorbing roots* are tiny roots found in the uppermost part of the soil. They provide the tree with water, air, and nutrients. Provide good conditions and your tree will grow fast and strong.



Trees can be purchased in these three forms

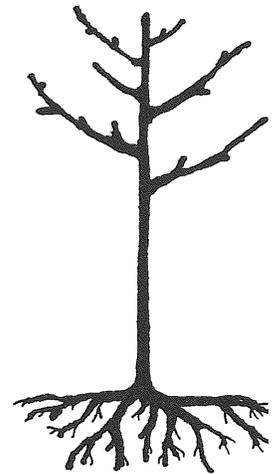
Balled and Burlapped:

Be sure to remove all ties from around the trunk. Remove all wires, twine and wire baskets from the root ball. Gently pull the burlap away from the ball, ease the roots through the burlap and remove the burlap completely.



Bare Root:

Make the hole wide enough to completely spread the roots out in all directions. This helps optimize the root growth.



Planting the Tree

Digging the hole

- Remove grass sod and dig a saucer shaped hole, wide at the edges.
- Pile soil in one area so it is easy to reuse.
- The hole should be three times as wide as the root ball and the depth of the root ball.
- Roughen the sides of the hole so roots can penetrate the soil.

Preparing the Roots

- Gently massage the root ball until the roots are loosened.
- Remove any soil from above the root flare. The root flare is where the roots spread out from the trunk of the tree.
- Root tips die when exposed to excess light and air. Work quickly!

Placing the tree in the hole

- Make a mound of soil in the middle of the hole to set the root flare even with the original grade around the tree.
- Spread the roots out in all directions.

Backfilling the hole with soil

- Lightly press around the roots to collapse air pockets as you backfill with soil.
- Water thoroughly.

Mulching around the tree

- Form a mulch ring around the tree keeping the mulch away from the trunk. Mulch helps by keeping out weeds, keeping the soil moist, and keeping grass trimmers away from the trunk. Mulching materials include compost, bark, wood chips etc
- Mulch should be about three to four inches deep. Form a three foot radius circle from the trunk the tree.

Staking the tree ~ Only if necessary, do not use wire or anything that could cut into the bark. Ready-made tree ties work well. Staking should be removed after one year.

Fertilizing ~ Do not fertilize the tree during the first year.

