

PERENNIAL CARE

how to plant trees & shrubs

Secure your investment in newly purchased trees and shrubs by taking extra care when planting. A little extra love upfront will ensure a happy, healthy, and carefree plants for many years to come

1 Prepare your site

- Plant in the morning, evening, or on a cloudy day. Avoid the heat of the day.
- Dig a hole as deep as the root ball and twice as wide. The root ball should be even or slightly above the ground when planted, never below.
- Fill the hole with water and let it drain completely. This will eliminate air pockets and provide needed moisture. *Note: If the hole does not drain within 24 hours, your site may be too wet for planting most varieties of trees.*
- Remove plant from the container and gently release the roots. Use a garden knife or root saw to shallowly trim around the entire circumference of the root ball to free up roots and ensure they are growing outward, not inward or circling the plant.

2 Put it in the ground

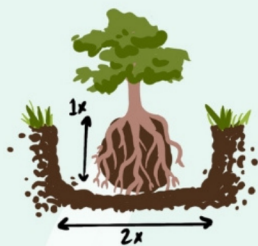
- Place root ball in the hole. Evenly spread out the roots so they are straight, not bent or doubled over.
- Make sure trees are situated with their root flare just above the soil line before backfilling. *Remember, when in doubt go shallow, not deep!*
- Backfill with a mixture of one part compost or planting mix, two parts native soil (the soil dug out of the hole), and a starter fertilizer like Espoma Biotone to provide a light feeding for new growth.
- Lightly tamp down the soil to remove air pockets
- Water in thoroughly.

3 Take care!

- *Water, water, water!* New trees and shrubs need thorough, regular watering to establish strong, deep root systems. Keep new planting moist, watering with a garden or soaker hose to penetrate deep into the soil. A sprinkler alone will not water deeply enough. Keep watering until the ground freezes solid in the fall.
- Mulch with a high-quality, shredded mulch using the 3:3:3 rule—mulch 3 feet in diameter, 3 inches deep, and at least 3 inches away from the trunk.
- Fertilize once or twice annually in early spring and early to mid-summer.
- Protect trunks of tender trees and shrubs with hard plastic tubing or fencing to prevent winter feeding damage and sunscald.
- Consider wrapping new evergreen plantings in burlap for the winter, especially young Boxwood and Arborvitae plants.

HOW TO PLANT TREES & SHRUBS

our tips for success



Dig a hole as deep & twice as wide as the rootball



Fill hole with water & let drain to provide moisture & check for proper drainage



Mulch, but leave 3in. gap between mulch & trunk



Make sure root flare is above the soil line



Water thoroughly & regularly until the ground freezes solid



Loosen the root ball & trim lightly to encourage root growth

Backfill the soil with :

1 part planting mix or compost

2 parts native soil



Starter Fertilizer (like Espoma Bio-Tone)