

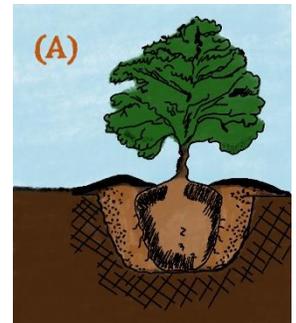
PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR TREES AND SHRUBS

If you are unable to install your new plants within 24 hours of purchase, please take the following steps to keep your plants in good condition:

- Water **Daily**
- Saturate the plants during each watering until water runs out of the bottom of the pot or root ball
- Store plants in a shady location

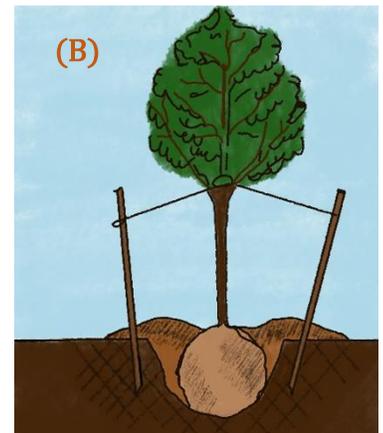
Failure to install your plant in the ground within one week of bringing it home will void the guarantee!

1. Dig wide, but not too deep: the hole should be twice the width of the root ball, and slightly shallower than the height of the root ball. **Refer to illustration (A).**
2. Prepare the root ball for container plants. **Refer to “Container Plant Prep.”**
3. Place plant in the hole and make sure the top of the root ball is 1-2” above original soil grade depending on the size of the plant. Adjust the depth of the hole if necessary.
4. Prepare the root ball for balled and burlapped plants. **Refer to “Balled and Burlapped Plant Prep.”**
5. Prepare the backfill as follows:
 - a. Mix 50% organic matter with 50% of your native soil
 - i. Organic matter options: Compost, Topsoil, Pine Soil Conditioner or combination of these
 - b. Add a starter fertilizer to the backfill and mix well. Follow package instructions for how much to use. We recommend [Bio-Tone Starter Plant Food](#).
6. Backfill the hole with prepared soil and fertilizer mix and tamp down gently but firmly.
7. Water the area to settle the soil and refill any holes or low spots as necessary. Then place 2-3” of mulch around the planting area but **do not apply mulch up to the root flare**. **Refer to illustration (A).**
8. Install tree stakes if necessary. **Refer to “Tree Staking.”**
9. Begin the watering program immediately. Instructions provided on our included watering guide.



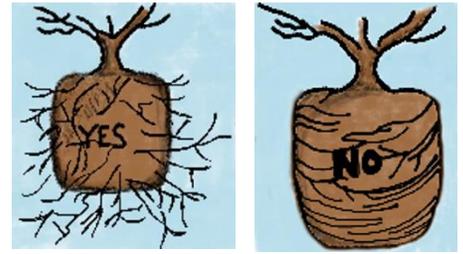
Tree Staking (usually trees only):

1. Place stakes at a slight angle away from the tree and pound them into **undisturbed soil**. **Refer to illustration (B)**
2. Two 4’ tree stakes are adequate for most trees. Please discuss with nursery team member for 3” caliper or larger trees.
3. Use strapping or wire to anchor tree to the stakes. If using wire, make sure to utilize hose or alternative padding to prevent wire from damaging the tree trunk.
4. Remove tree stakes after one year to ensure the strongest root system possible.



Container Plant Prep:

1. Gently remove plants from or cut away plastic pot. Do not carry or pull plant out by the trunk or branches as this will cause damage.
2. Work the roots loose, they may be tightly wound. Use your hands or a tool if necessary.
3. Failure to loosen wrapped roots can prevent plant growth. Do not bury any portion of the trunk or root flare. If necessary, remove some of the soil from the pot to expose root flare on your own.



Balled and Burlapped Plant Prep:

After setting the plant into the prepared hole, cut strings and burlap on the top of the root ball. Tuck any loose burlap down into hole so it is not exposed when you backfill. Do not remove the burlap from the sides and bottom of the plant as this will decompose over time.

Wire Basket:

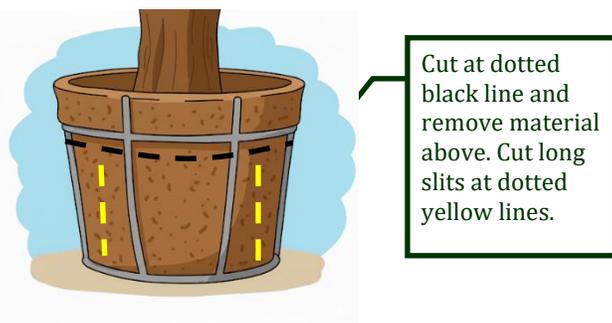
Larger burlapped plants will have a wire basket. Once in the hole, fold back the top portion of the basket so nothing is exposed when you backfill.

Do not remove the basket as this may result in damage to the root ball.

Fiber Potted Plant Prep:

Planting a **Fiber Potted Tree (pictured below)** is different than planting a tree from a standard plastic pot. Please combine the following information with the standard planting guide instructions.

1. Prepare the hole per the standard instructions. Dig the hole twice as wide as the pot, but not deeper than the height of the root ball.
2. **It is important to keep the wire cage and fiber pot intact as you place your tree in the hole.** Once in the hole, the top of the root ball should be roughly 1" above your soil grade.
3. After placing in the hole, **cut and remove the top 2-3" of the wire cage AND fiber pot.**
4. Make 3-4 long cuts down the sides of remaining fiber pot to allow for root growth. The remainder of the fiber pot and wire cage will remain in the hole.
5. For backfill, staking, mulching and watering information, reference above in our standard Planting guide.



Long-term care of your plants:

- Bi-annual to yearly fertilization for the first three years is recommended for new plantings as they acclimate to their new homes. Please view the fertilization guide on our website for more information.
- Animal/pest prevention strategies and winterization techniques may be necessary. This includes but is not limited to: sprays, tree wraps/guards, burlap, etc.

- We cannot include every scenario in this handout. Please [utilize our website](#) to view our care guides for your specific plants. **Do not hesitate** to ask us questions before issues arise!