

S·T·A·B·L·E·S Info Sheet

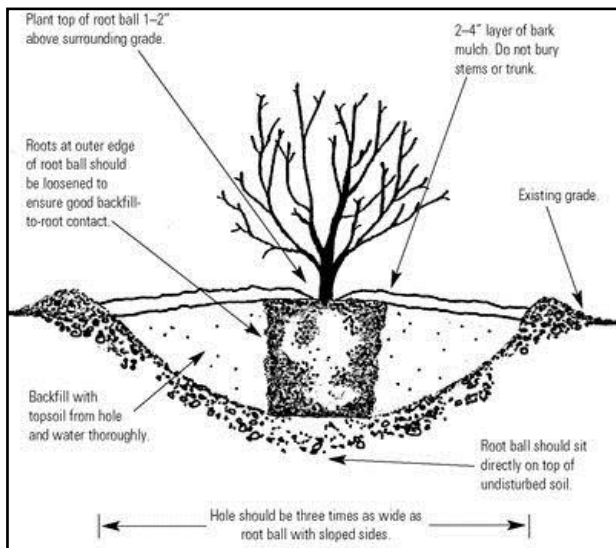
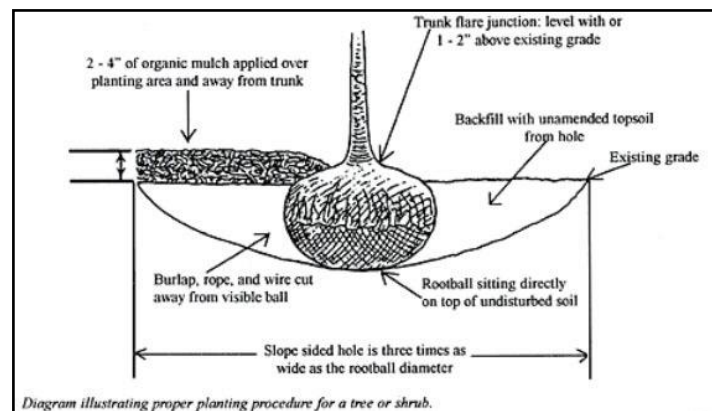
Planting Shrubs and Trees

It's important to get your plants off to a healthy start. Make sure the plants you have selected are getting the correct light. A shade loving plant can burn in a sunny spot and a plant that needs sun will not do well in a shady spot.

Watering is necessary when either planting or transplanting. Even drought tolerant plants need some water to get them established. If doing a large area with lots of plants, soaker hoses are the best. An automatic sprinkler can present some problems. Your new plants need good deep soakings a few times a week and if your sprinklers are not on long enough, the plants don't get enough water. Deep watering 2 to 3 times a week is better than a shallow watering every day. This needs to be done until the plants are established.

Planting

After you have located the best spot for your new shrubs and trees, dig a hole 2 to 3 times as wide as the root ball. The depth should be the same as the root ball. Bio-tone or Bone Meal can be added to the hole and mixed in according to package directions. Both of these fertilizers promote root growth. A generous amount of Peat Moss or Compost helps to keep moisture around the roots. Sandy soils can use more Peat Moss than clay soils, so knowing your soil type helps.



Carefully take the plant out of the container. You can lay the plant on the side and tap on the side of the pot to release the plant. If it's pot bound and doesn't come out easily, try slicing the pot in a few spots to free it. 'Comb' the roots to loosen them up, allowing the roots to spread out after planting. If the plant is balled and burlaped, loosen all the twine or wire holding the burlap. The extra burlap can be cut off once the plant is in the hole.

Gently place the plant in the hole, making sure that you don't bury the plant too deep. The plant should be at the same level it was grown in or slightly above the grade to accommodate a mulch layer.

Back fill with the soil. You can also add some of the starter fertilizer and peat moss to the back fill. Lightly tamp down the soil as you fill the hole. You don't want any air pockets.

Slowly water the plants, soaking the soil and root ball well. A layer of mulch will help keep in the moisture and also keeps the weeds down.

Most important--

- Correct location
- Wide hole, not deep
- Add amendments
- Loosen roots
- Don't bury the plant too deep
- Keep plant well watered the first growing season

Diagram sources: 1-extension.umass.edu
2-westonnurseries.com