

Planting instructions

Bareroot plant

1. Dig hole twice as wide as roots, but no deeper.
2. Place plant in hole, make sure it is at grade – i.e. at the level where it was grown, which should be the same as your ground level, planting higher or lower than grade has not been beneficial in our experience.
3. Spread roots.
4. Set plant straight in hole.
5. Backfill to 1/3rd of the hole depth with 4:1 mix of topsoil and compost or other organic matter (not needed if the topsoil is rich in organic matter). To avoid settling later, lightly water this new soil mix or pack firmly with foot. Continue this process up to ground level.
6. Form basin with soil built up around its perimeter so water can soak in and not run off.
7. Water thoroughly. See separate handout on instructions.
8. Add 2-3" of mulch to conserve moisture and prevent weeds.
9. Staking and caging instructions, instructions on trunk protection – see reverse of this handout.

Container plant

1. Dig hole twice as wide as root ball, but no deeper.
2. Remove tree or shrub from pot, and with a sharp knife score roots on side and bottom if they are root bound.
3. See #4-9 above.

Balled and Burlapped (B&B) plant

1. Dig hole twice as wide as root ball, but no deeper.
2. Set tree or shrub straight in hole.
3. Remove twine wrapped around base of trunk, leave wire basket on, but remove burlap on top of root ball. Leave burlap on sides of root ball.
4. See #4-9 above.

Fabric Bag plant

1. Dig hole twice as wide as root ball but no deeper.
2. Remove tree or shrub from **moist** fabric bag by using a serrated knife or razor blade. First, cut out the bottom and remove. Second, slice the sides vertically and then peel back and remove the fabric. If some of the fabric remains because you can't remove it, this is OK. Slice any remaining fabric to give the roots room to grow.
3. See #3-9 above.



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Staking, Caging, and Trunk Protection

Staking trees

1. Use either wood or steel posts. Use three posts for B&B and potted trees planted in windy areas, and two posts for protected areas. Always use three posts for fabric bag trees.
2. Position 1st post directly into prevailing wind and 3' out from the trunk. Angle the top slightly away from the tree. Drive it one or more feet into the ground or until secure.
3. Place nylon tree strap with grommets (*available at Blake Nursery*) around the trunk. To prevent it from slipping, position it above the lowest branch or higher.
4. Cut a 5' section of 14 or 16 gauge wire and use one end to connect the grommets. Tighten the wire so that it is secure.
5. Stretch the other end to the post and use it to straighten the tree before tying. Wrap it tightly around the post.
6. Position 2nd and 3rd posts to make an equilateral triangle.
7. Repeat #3-5 above. Position the straps in different places in order to avoid putting too much strain on any one part of the trunk.
8. Check the tightness of the straps every 2-3 months. Adjust if they are cutting into the trunk or need tightening.
9. Remove the straps after 1-2 growing seasons--this will depend on the size of the tree and the windiness of the site.

Caging trees and shrubs from browsing

1. Using the steel or wood posts for support, wrap the trees with 5' tall welded wire or equally sturdy types of hardware cloth. If the posts are set 3' out from the trunk, you will use 20' of wire. For shrubs, set the posts 1-2' out from the outer branches to allow for additional growth.
2. Hold the wire in place by either hooking it over the top of the post or tying it with wire. Leave the bottom edge on the ground if you won't be mowing or weed-eating under it. Otherwise, raise it off the ground and use wire to fasten it to the post at the desired height.

To protect your plants from horses, install additional posts or use pig panels—these are stronger than welded wire.

Trunk protection for deciduous trees

1. Place an Arbogard (*available at Blake Nursery*) around the base of the trunk to protect against rodents, weed eaters, and lawn mowers. Not fastening it will allow it to stretch out as the trunk grows. These can be left on year round.
2. Place a Corrigard (*available at Blake Nursery*) around the trunk to protect against animal damage and winter sunscald. Remove or replace it with a larger size when it gets tight. Remove in late spring to improve aeration and replace in early fall.



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