

Containerized and Balled & Burlapped Trees and Shrubs

Plant a Tree the right way!

Select the right tree for the right site and . . .

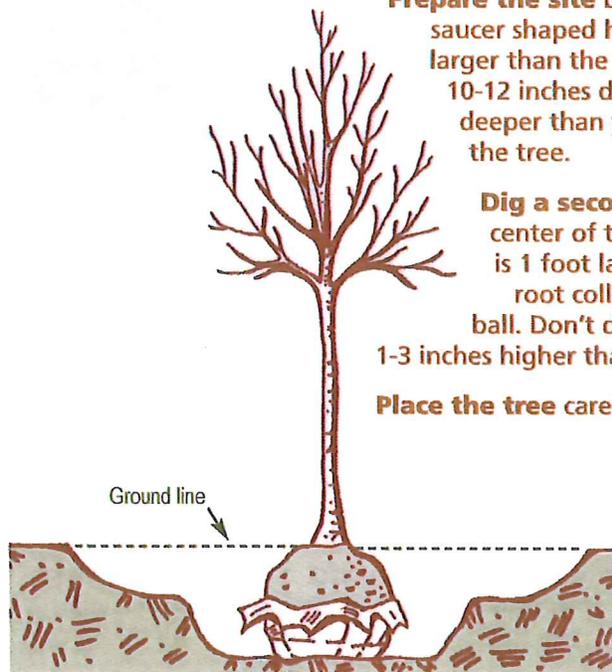
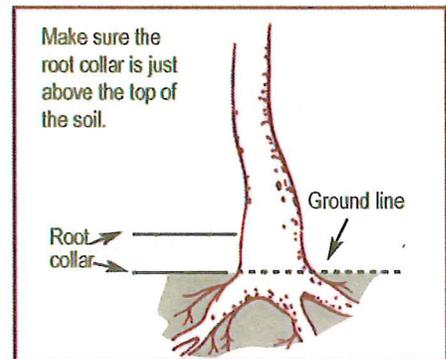
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Decide how deep to plant the tree. The tree's root collar (the bulge right above the root system) should be just above the top of the soil. Many trees are planted too deep at the nursery so you may need to remove soil and prune roots down to where the first large side roots occur.

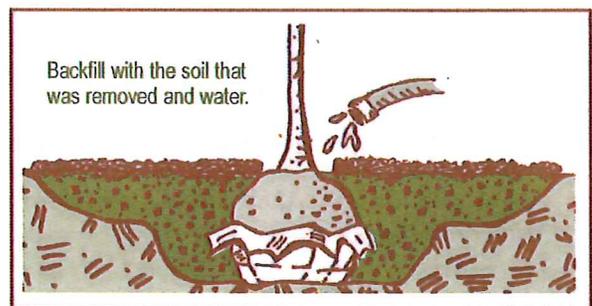
Prepare the site by digging a large saucer shaped hole 2 to 3 times larger than the root ball and 10-12 inches deep, but no deeper than you plan to plant the tree.

Dig a second hole in the center of the large circle that is 1 foot larger in diameter than the root ball and as deep as the root collar—maintaining undisturbed the soil beneath the root ball. Don't dig the hole too deep. It is better to have the root ball 1-3 inches higher than ground level because of possible settling.

Place the tree carefully in the center of the hole.



Back fill when the tree is positioned and straight. Back fill the hole with the soil that was removed. As the back fill is added, lightly push the soil around the roots or water the soil to eliminate air pockets (do not pack the soil after you water). Back fill to the height just below the root collar. Don't plant the tree too deep.



Mulch with woodchips to a depth of 4 inches on top of the planting circle. Keep the mulch 4 inches away from the trunk to prevent fungus from growing on the tree trunk.

Water is very important to a newly planted tree. A slow, root saturating one-hour trickle once a week is a good rule of thumb for a new tree. This provides the new roots with sufficient moisture without drowning them. If it rains or is very dry, the watering schedule should be adjusted accordingly.

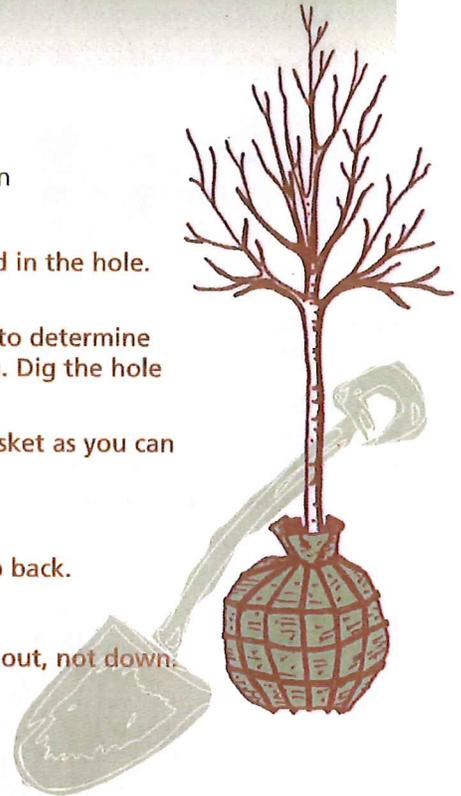
special considerations on the back . . .

Special Considerations . . .

Planting Balled & Burlapped Trees

Balled and burlapped (B & B) trees have the root ball held together by burlap that is encased in a wire basket. B & B trees are generally larger than containerized trees and can weigh hundreds of pounds.

- The basket and burlap should not be removed until the tree is positioned in the hole. This keeps the root ball intact.
- Carefully loosen the top of the burlap. Probe with a wire or remove soil to determine where the root collar is located—right above where the large roots begin. Dig the hole so the root collar is one to three inches higher than the ground line.
- Carefully place the tree in the hole and cut away as much of the wire basket as you can without disturbing the soil ball.
- Cut and remove all twine and rope from around the ball.
- Remove the nails holding the burlap together and gently fold the burlap back.
- Gently cut away loose burlap without damaging root ball.
- Leave the remaining burlap and/or wire under the root ball. Roots grow out, not down.



Planting Containerized Trees

Containerized trees can come in plastic or paper containers, and wooden bushel baskets.

- Remember the tree may be planted too deep in the pot. Remove soil down to the root collar where the first large side roots begin.
 - Determine if the tree roots hold the soil together in the pot or if the soil is loose.
 - If the soil is packed or the pot is rootbound, carefully remove the tree from the pot. You may have to lay the tree on its side and press the pot to free it from the soil ball.
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- If the tree's roots are wound inside the pot, make a vertical slice up each quarter of the root ball. Make an X cut across the bottom of the soil ball and continue planting in a normal manner (see illustration). Cuts should be 1 - 1 1/2" deep.
 - If the tree is too large or the root ball is loose, place the tree and pot in the planting hole and adjust for final position. Next, carefully cut around the base of the pot. Then make a slice up one side of the pot. Gently back fill and then remove the sides of the pot. Leave the bottom of the pot in the hole. Roots grow out, not down.



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Information in this flyer is based on guidelines developed by American Forests, the University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation Office of Environmental Services.