

**Fertilizing:** Except for rapidly growing plants, adequate back fill will provide most nutrients a plant requires for the first season. A 100% organic fertilizer or amendment incorporated at the time of planting is beneficial; supplemental applications of Root Stimulator are an excellent boost for the root system.

**Pruning:** Most newly planted plants spend a great proportion of their energy establishing their root system. Therefore, top growth often is minimized so that pruning or shaping is not necessary. Be careful not to prune new flower buds that may develop later in the season.

**Mulching/Weeding:** Liberal use of well-composted bark mulch will enhance the water holding capability of soil, and reduce weed competition. Removal of weeds as they appear enables your plant to use all the nutrient in the soil. Mulch should be no more than 1-3" deep, and keep the mulch a few inches away from the trunk or stems.

### **Maintenance of Your Landscapes**

**Water:** After the first year of establishment, most plants have developed a network of roots capable of competing for soil moisture. However, during the growing season supplemental waterings are recommended if there is lack of normal rainfall. Of course, soil texture must be considered as well. Sandy soils will dry out much more rapidly than heavier soils, therefore, plants in sandy soils require more frequent watering.

**Fertilizer:** Your plant has probably been placed in a man-made artificial environment. Therefore, it may eventually have to be fertilized. The only true way to determine what you need to add to your soil for fertilizer is to have a soil test. This is a procedure performed by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service. Our staff can help you with information on this service. By knowing your plant's needs, and your soil texture, an educated analysis can be made as to fertilizer needs, particularly if your soil pH is known. Soil pH tests are easy to perform, and kits are relatively inexpensive. Generally speaking, liquid fertilizers are excellent for quick spring or early summer results. The drawback with these fertilizers is that they do not last in the soil; also, they are so effective when applied, that they should not be used

after July 15th or tender growth may be produced too late in the season and winter injury could result. A good complement to liquid fertilizers are granular fertilizers. Available in several formulations, depending on the plant's needs.

### **Pests and Diseases**

A plant is a natural food supply for numerous pests and diseases. It is recommended not to spray unless absolutely necessary. Other methods of control (referred to as pest management) would include:

- Monitoring for initial infestation and removal by hand when possible (plucking or squashing)
- Use of pheromone traps to attract and kill pests
- Use of disease resistant plants
- Good cultural practices – remove diseased or weak plants; rake up dropped foliage and stems; fertilize and water properly
- Use of natural predators – praying mantis, lady beetles, etc.
- Use of physical barriers such as nets or fencing
- Use of biological controls, such as BT

A healthy plant is less likely to be affected by insects or disease. Keeping a plant in a healthy condition reduces the need to use costly chemical controls. If you are in doubt about a plant problem, please ask our staff for information.

### **Pruning**

As a plant grows, it often will require pruning for shape, size, or removal of dead or diseased material. Basically, any stem can be removed if it is necessary. Plants have the ability to rejuvenate after pruning, if the pruning is done properly. Keep in mind that more spacing between branches allows adequate air flow throughout the entire plant, lessening chances for diseases. Pruning paint is not considered beneficial to plants.



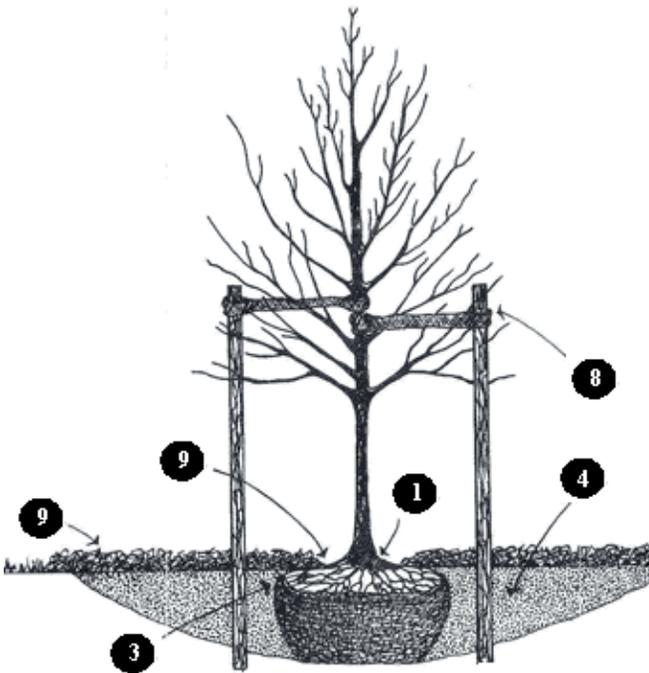
## **HOW TO PLANT**

Healthy plants  
equal successful landscapes.  
The following information can be used  
as a guide to help you succeed in  
your planting projects.

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## How to Plant from Containers:

1. First, water the plant in the container before you begin to plant in order to thoroughly water the soil ball. Dig a hole 2 times the width of the container and as deep as the soil level in the container (no deeper!).
2. Remove the root ball from the container (ask for a demonstration from our employees if needed) and loosen the outside layer of the root system either by scoring with a knife or pulling by hand. This step is extremely important. Circling roots that are not interrupted could possibly endanger the plant's health.
3. Set the plant in the approximate center of the hole. The root ball should be at or slightly above normal ground level. If it is not, then remove the plant and amend the depth of the hole before replacing the plant. Please keep in mind that planting too deeply will eventually kill the plant (an exception - some roses benefit from deep planting; see our rose brochure).
4. Back-fill 2/3 of the planting hole with amended soil. Amended soil will differ depending on what plants are being planted (back-fill information follows at the end of the planting instructions).
5. Fill the planting hole with water. This will result in a "moat" around the soil ball. When drained completely,



re-fill with water again. It is very important to water adequately enough at this time to soak the soil completely to the depth and width of the originally dug hole, or deeper. Root Stimulator, or a micorrhizae product for organic growers, is recommended for woody plants.

6. After the water has drained, back-fill the rest of the hole to ground level, and tamp gently. Next, form a circular ridge of soil around the planting hole. Formation of this "saucer" within the edge of the hole will enable future waterings and rain to effectively water the plant.
7. Water thoroughly once more to remove any remaining air pockets.
8. Staking may be necessary when planting trees, especially in windy locations or if trees are not firmly rooted in the root ball. Do not keep trees staked after the second growing season.
9. Mulching over the root zone is a good idea. Keep the mulch a couple inches away from the trunk or branches emerging from the root ball, and apply no more than 2-3" deep.
10. Tree wrap may be recommended for winter protection on thin barked trees. Remove tree wrap during periods of active growth.
11. Reduce herbicide use on surrounding areas.

## How to Plant from Balled and Burlapped

1. Dig a hole at least 2 times the width of the root ball and as deep as the root ball (no deeper!). Measure from trunk flare to bottom of the root ball to determine the hole depth.
2. Set the plant into the approximate center of the hole. The root ball should be set at ground level or slightly higher. Correct the hole depth if necessary. Plants with plastic burlap must have the burlap removed. Remove the ropes and the top 1/3 of the natural fiber burlap from the root ball. Although wire baskets can possibly remain on the root ball, we recommend altering them by removing some wires to allow larger, unrestricted areas, or by cutting away the top half of the basket.
3. Please follow steps 4 through 10 of "How to Plant from Containers" to complete your planting!

## Recommended Back-fill Soil Amendments

The following recommendations are based on our experience in growing plants for over 35 years, as well as recommendations recently acquired through industry research. The following soil mixtures should be incorporated throughout the area surrounding the root zone of plants. Our recommendation is to dig the hole at least 2 times the width and as deep as the depth of the root ball of the plant.

### Group 1: Deciduous & Needled Evergreen Trees & Shrubs

Add to soil removed from the hole the following ratio: 2 shovels full of peat to 1 shovel full of composted/aged manure (or other substituted composted organic material).

\* except those that need higher peat/organic content: use Group 2

### Group 2: Broad-leaved Evergreens & Related Ericaceae Plants (Azaleas, Hollies, Mt. Laurel, Blueberries, etc.)

Add to soil removed from the hole the following ratio: 3-4 shovels full of peat to 1 shovel full of composted/aged manure (or other substituted composted organic material of low pH).

The above recommendations are for average soils. If existing site conditions are not adequate for proper growth of plants being considered, then the site may need further amending before planting. If you have extremely wet or dry soils, seek further advice from someone on our staff. In many cases, there are ways around "problem areas."

## Maintenance the First Year

Watering: Deep, weekly watering is a must. Fall watering up until the ground freezes is also critical. This water must penetrate to the depth of the root ball to be adequate. A saucer formed around the planting hole reduces run-off. Most plants that fail in the first season do so because of incorrect watering. A newly installed plant does not have an established root system, therefore, it is much more susceptible to extremes of dry or wet conditions.