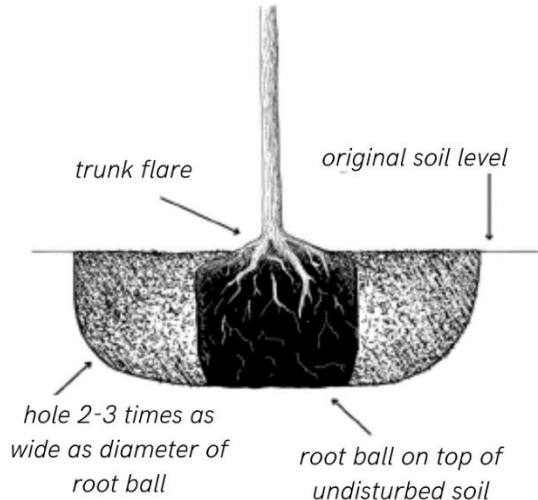


PLANTING GUIDE

Step-by-Step Planting Success

Step 1: Dig a hole. Dig a hole that is twice as wide and 1-2 inches shallower than the height of the root ball.

Step 2: Prepare the plant. Remove the plant from its nursery container. Gently loosen the roots with your hands.



Trees that are balled and burlapped should be placed in the planting hole with the burlap still in place. Once in the hole, use scissors and wire cutter to cut away the top half of the burlap, rope, and wire basket.

Step 3: Backfill. Backfill around the plant with the soil that was removed from the planting hole.

Step 4: Water. Using a hose at a slow trickle, water in well to help settle the soil back in the planting hole.

Step 5: Mulch. Mulch around the tree being sure the mulch is not piled up around the trunk.

Watering Requirements

Most plants that fail do so because of improper watering. Your plants' needs will depend on many factors including soil conditions, rainfall, slope, and plant species. It generally takes two to three years for a newly planted tree to become established. During this time, much of the plants' energy goes to developing the root system. Hand watering is needed to establish a new tree or shrub.

IMPORTANT: An irrigation system used to water the lawn or oscillating sprinkler is not sufficient to water a newly planted tree or shrub.

trees & shrubs

If you are using an irrigation system, you will need to supplement it with hand watering until your plants are established.

To water newly planted trees, place a trickling hose at the base of the plant for 30 to 60 minutes. A newly planted shrub requires around 1/3 of the volume of the container the shrub was purchased in.

Year One Watering Guidelines

Weeks 1-2: Every other day if planted in the spring and every day if planted in the summer

Spring / Summer: Two to three times a week (after initial 2 weeks)

Fall: Once a week until the ground freezes

Overwatering

Yes, it is possible to overwater your trees and shrubs. Roots need oxygen to survive, and when the soil is overwatered and saturated, the roots can become damaged. This damage makes the water unavailable to them and causes the plant to wilt.

When this occurs, it becomes very tempting to give the plant additional water, which will only cause more stress to the plant. This is why it is always important to check the soil to see if it is wet or dry when you are uncertain.

The best way to do this is to dig down a couple of inches to check the moisture level. You can also invest in a moisture meter which will tell you if your soil is wet or dry.

Fertilizing

Trees and shrubs should be fertilized in the late fall after the plant is dormant or in early spring. Plants should NOT be fertilized from mid-summer to early fall as this could stimulate growth too late in the season and increase the risk of winter injury.

There are many types of fertilizer. When in doubt, use a complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10 or Milorganite which is a safe, nitrogen rich fertilizer that will not burn your plants. Always follow the directions on the package for application rates and recommended ways to apply.

As tempting as it may be to give the plant an extra dose of fertilizer to help it out, more isn't better. Too much fertilizer can damage the plant, making it susceptible to insects or could even kill your plant.



For more plant lists, please visit baxtergardens.com