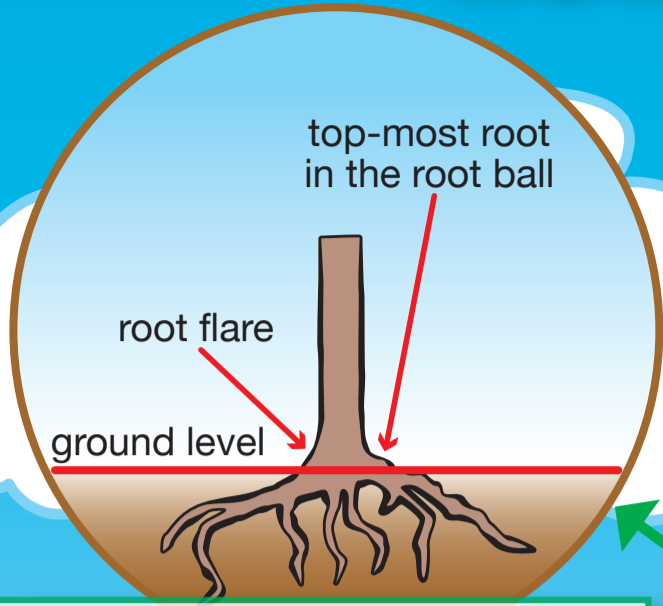
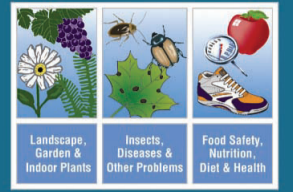




Home & Garden  
Information Center



## When to Plant

Plant trees and shrubs in the fall. The temperatures are cooler and allow for better root development.

## Root Flare

Proper planting depth is essential for the health of the tree. Correct depth is obtained when the root flare is at the surface of the soil. The root flare is where the first main roots attach to the trunk. You may need to remove excess soil from across the top of the entire root ball to expose the root flare.

## Mulch

Mulch retains soil moisture and moderates soil temperature extremes. A 2- to 4- inch layer applied to a large area around the base of the tree is ideal. More than a 4-inch mulch depth can cause problems with oxygen and moisture levels. Also, keep mulch a minimum of one inch away from the trunk to avoid pest and disease problems.

## Water Berm

Construct a 3-inch high ring around the edge of the root ball to hold water. Remove the berm at the end of the second growing season.

## Soil Preparation

Determine the pH and available nutrients of the planting location by having a soil test done. Water should drain through the soil evenly. If the site holds too much water, choose a plant that tolerates wet soil. The addition of soil amendments is generally not recommended.

## Pruning Restrictions

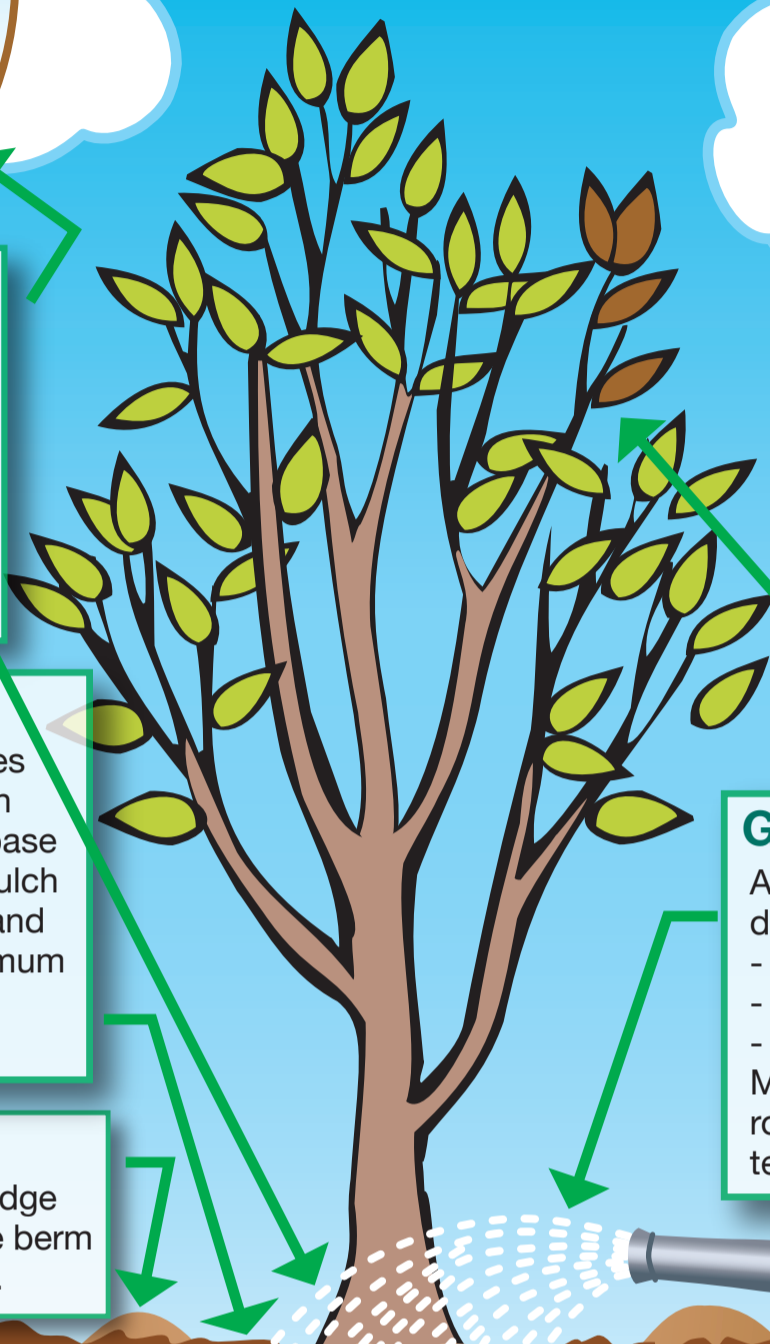
Prune only to remove broken and dead twigs or to improve tree structure.

## General Watering Guidelines

Apply 2 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter:

- Daily for 2 weeks.
- Every other day for 2 months.
- Once weekly until established.

Make sure water is applied to the original root ball. Adjust water according to soil type, temperature, rainfall, and other irrigation.



## Ball & Burlap

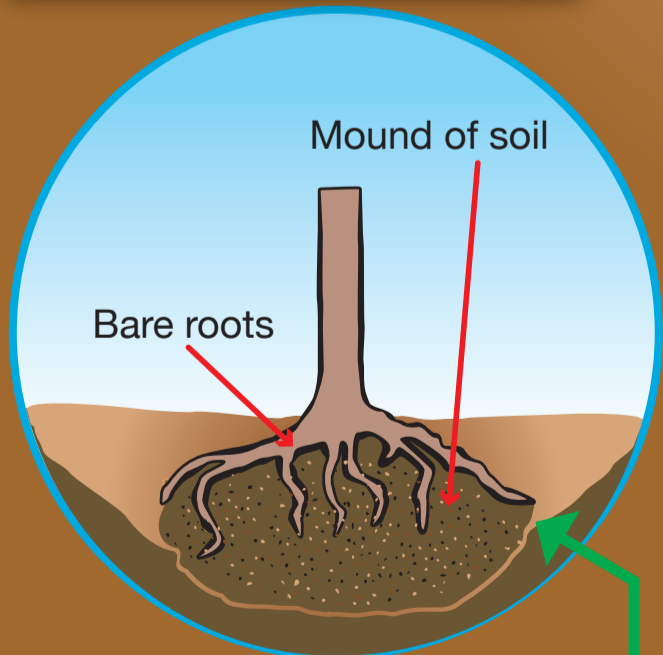
Before planting, determine if it is synthetic or natural burlap. Natural burlap repels water and should be removed from the upper third portion of the root ball. Synthetic burlap can restrict root growth and should be removed completely.

## Backfill

Break up soil clods before backfilling to prevent air pockets. Fill the hole 1/2 way, then lightly tamp. Fill the hole the rest of the way and lightly tamp again. The handle end of a shovel works great for tamping the soil around the root ball.

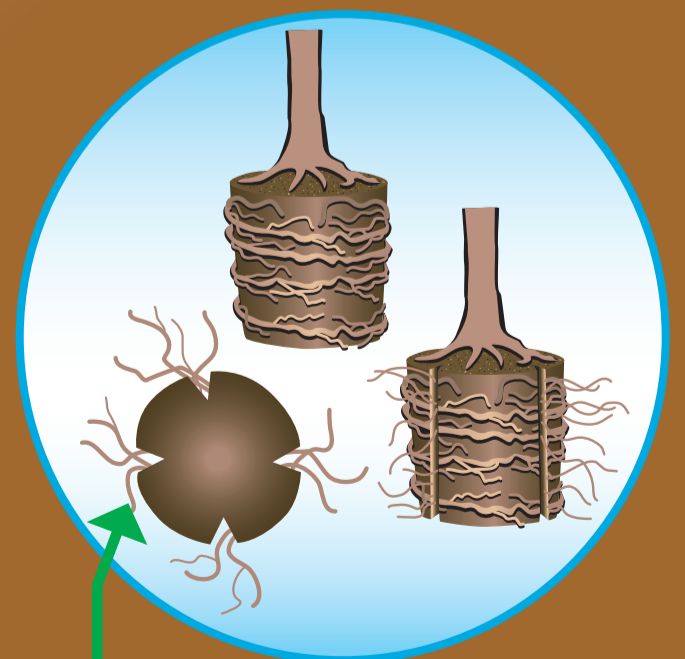
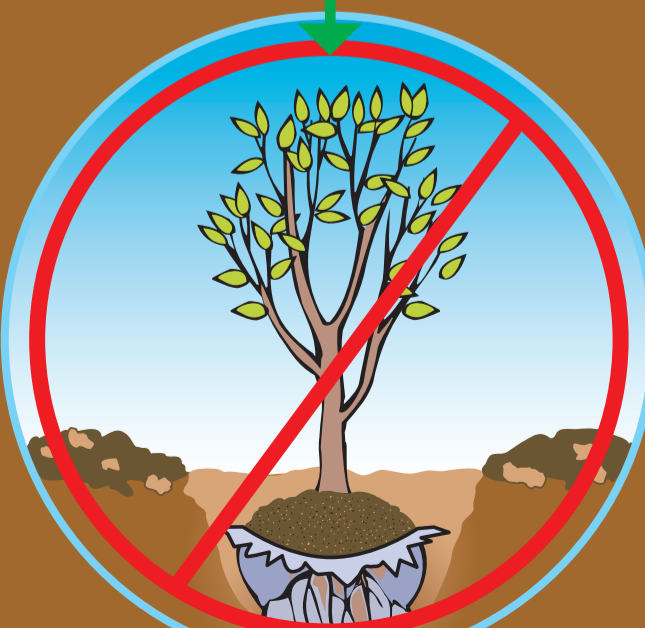
## Planting Depth

The planting hole should be equal to the height of the root ball, never deeper. Leave the soil undisturbed at the bottom of the hole. The planting hole should be 2 to 3 times wider than the root ball.



## Bare Root

Do not cut, break or bend the roots to make them fit into the planting hole. Do however, remove any dead or dried up roots. Lay roots as parallel as possible or angled slightly downward. The diagram shows a soil mound used to help spread roots within the planting hole.



## Root Slicing

Examine the roots, if they appear to be "circling", cut 1 to 2 inch deep slices in the root ball. This will promote new root development.