

# Tree and Shrub Planting Guide

Proper planting of a tree will ensure its survivability and long-term health.

## **Easy Steps to Proper Planting**

### **Prepare the Planting Hole**

- 1) The planting site should have well-drained, amended soil.
- 2) Dig the hole at least twice the width of the container and equal to the depth of the container.
- 3) Mix soil amendments with the soil that was dug out of the hole in a ratio of 1/3 amendment to 2/3 backfill soil. Wallace's recommends compost or Miracle Gro Garden Soil.
- 4) Use the soil mixture to create a 3-4" high mound in the bottom of the hole and firm down to prevent settling.

### **Remove the Container**

- 1) Lay the plant on its side. Tap the bottom of the container and gently slide the container off of the root ball.
- 2) If the container does not slide off easily, cut it down the side with a sharp knife.
- 3) Vertically score the root ball on all 4 sides with a knife or sharp blade.

### **Plant the Tree**

- 1) Place the plant in the hole so that the top of the root ball is slightly (about 2") above the existing soil level.
- 2) Adjust the root ball so the trunk is straight.
- 3) Gradually backfill and continually pack the soil mixture around the root ball.

### **Care for the Tree**

- 1) Water well immediately after planting. Use a starter fertilizer like Bonide Root and Grow or Miracle Gro Quick Start to promote root development and reduce transplant shock.
- 2) Mulch the area with a 2-3" layer of your preferred mulch. The mulch will conserve moisture and reduce weeds. Remember to leave a ring around the tree trunk so the mulch is not touching the trunk.
- 3) Continue to water the tree with 1 1/2" of water per week. This is especially important during the first planting season and during hot, dry periods.
- 4) After the first growing season, use a tree and shrub fertilizer every spring and fall.

**Enjoy your newest addition to your landscape! Please contact us with any questions about the care of your new tree or shrub.**



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