



**Russell's Tree & Shrub Farm, LLC**  
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## **PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS**

### **INSTALLING YOUR NEW PLANTS**

#### **#1 - FIRST STEP:**

- **Layout** – decide the location of your new plant(s). If planting multiple plants, lay them out to see if the placement is correct. Sometimes plants have to be slightly moved or rearranged to get the desired look of the garden. With trees or large shrubs, make sure to look for possible future problems such as overhead power lines, fences, walkways, etc.

#### **#2 - DIGGING THE HOLE & PREPARING THE SOIL:**

- Dig a hole two times wider than the root ball and taper the sides. If the site has poor drainage, leave an undisturbed mound of soil in the center large enough to support the root ball, and widen the hole slightly.

#### **#3 – PLANTING DEPTH:**

- If the ground is a heavy clay soil, the top surface of the root ball should be 2-4” (if a tree, up to 1/3 of the root ball) above ground level. If the plants are installed into a raised bed, the top of the root ball should be level with the top surface of the soil in the bed.
- **AT NO TIME SHOULD THE TOP SURFACE OF A ROOT BALL BE BELOW SOIL LEVEL. THIS WILL DROWN THE PLANT AND KILL IT QUICKLY, VOIDING ANY WARRANTY.**

#### **#4 – PLANTING:**

- **Plastic container:** remove the plant from the plastic container
- **Ball and burlap:** leave the plant within the burlap and wire basket. After tree or shrub has been placed in the hole, remove the strings and loosen burlap only around the base of the stem, making sure the natural trunk flare is exposed.
- **Fiber pot:** leave plant in fiber pot, and slice the bottom, or perforate for better drainage. The rim of the pot should cut below the soil level. The remainder of the pot will decompose.
- **Amending the soil to fill the hole:** Overly dry, compacted soils: add peat moss. Used and existing soils: add peat moss, manure or Michigan peat. Heavy clay soils: add fresh topsoil/sand mixture of peat moss and manure. Brand new beds: add peat moss, and Michigan peat or cow manure.

#### **#5 - FINISH:**

- Apply 2” of mulch over the planting area, keeping the mulch 2-3” away from the stem base. Place a temporary ring with 3” mulch to form a saucer where the root ball ends. This focus’ the water to the existing root ball where it is most important. At this time, there should be no burlap or portion of the fiber pot exposed. It is recommended that you stake any trees to prevent damage from wind.

## PLANT CARE AFTER INSTALLATION

**FERTILIZER:** Use Quick Start or an equivalent at the time of planting, then a granular fertilizer such as 10-10-10 (1) month after planting. For a highly effective way of fertilizing that lasts up to 3 years, try our newest product, NUTRIPAK. It is a slow release feeding packet for Trees, Shrubs, and Evergreens.

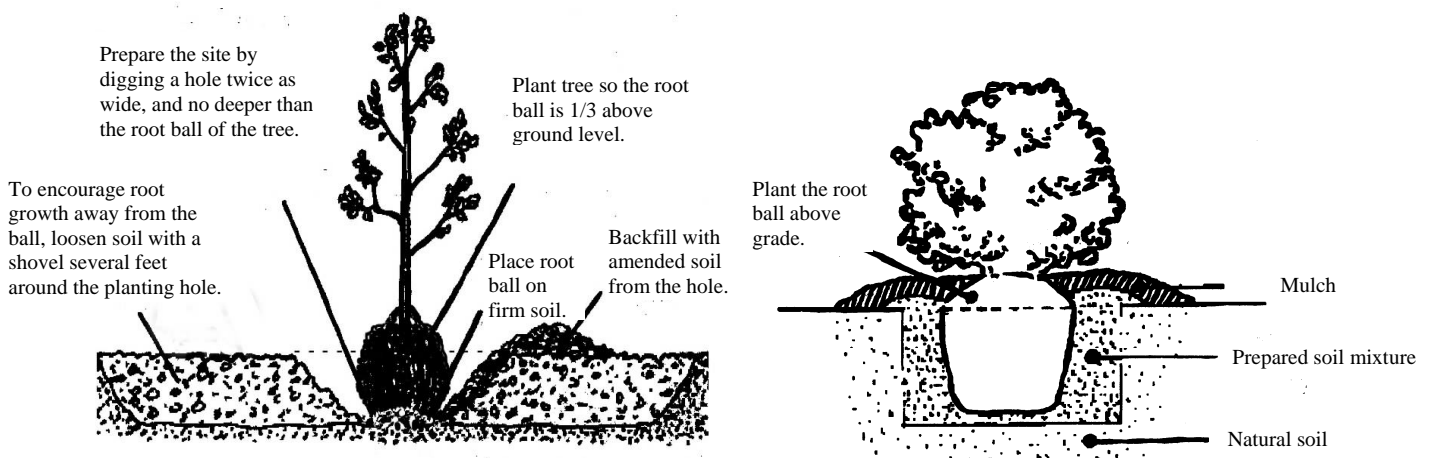
### **WATERING:**

**Water all plant material once it is delivered or picked up, and twice a day until planted.**

- **Water is the most important element to maintain your plant's health.**
- Newly planted material requires more water than established ones.
- Evergreen shrubs and trees, and any large trees should be watered every 2-3 days.
- Leafy plants such as Spiraea, Potentilla, Variegated Jap. Willow, or Barberry require watering every day for the first week, then every 2-3 days thereafter.
- It's important for you to water even if it rains during this time period.
- Apply the water directly over the plant's root system until a puddle forms around the base of the plant. This will ensure proper and thorough watering.
- New planting's roots do not reach the surrounding soil for 4-6 weeks after planting.
- For the remainder of the season, and summers thereafter, plant material should receive water at least once a week, more if we haven't had an inch of rain in any given week.
- If you are unsure how deep the water has penetrated, use a stick along the root ball.

**PLEASE NOTE!!! Failure to follow these planting instructions will result in the cessation of any type of replacement or exchange. ALSO, PLANT MUST BE PLANTED IN THE GROUND FOR WARRANTY TO APPLY!!**

\* If planting near power lines, make sure to choose a tree that grows no higher than 25' when mature.



**If you have any questions, please stop in or call. Our horticulturists are here to help you.**