

Country Garden Center, Inc.

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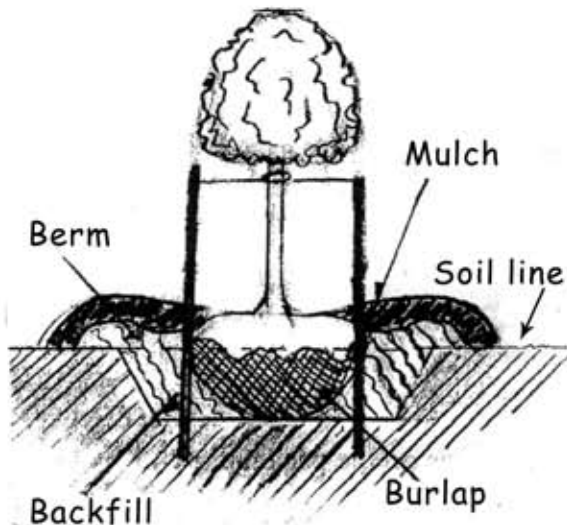
Planting, Watering, and General Care of Shrubs and Trees

Follow these instructions carefully for best results.

Prepare soil for foundation and bed planting

- * Strip all existing sod from the planting area or apply Round-Up herbicide to kill the grass.
- * If Round-Up is applied, wait three days before planting.
- * Direct all down spout water away from planting areas.
- * Apply a 1" thick layer of organic humus to the planting area and till to a depth of 4-6 inches.
- * Add topsoil to even out any low areas.
- * Rake level and proceed with planting.
- * Plant shrubs and trees slightly higher than the existing grade. It is not necessary to place berms around plantings in well-tilled soil.

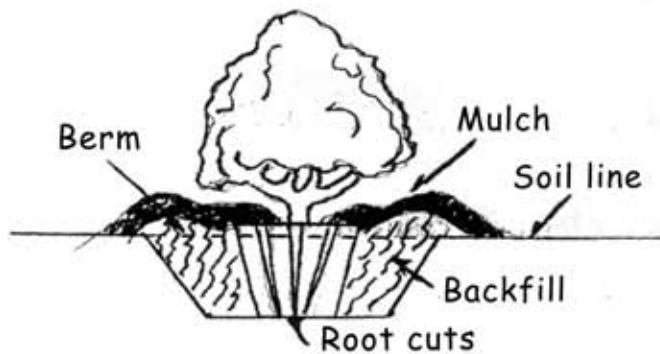
Planting Balled and Burlapped Trees and Shrubs



- * The width of the planting hole should be at least 2 times the diameter of the rootball. The hole should be at least 3 times the diameter in heavily compacted soil.
- * The depth of the planting hole should be dug so 1/4 of the rootball is above the soil line. Take care not to loosen the bottom of the hole that the rootball can be placed on undisturbed soil.
- * Place rootball in hole; cut and remove all ropes and bindings. **If a wire basket surrounds the rootball, leave the basket intact. Do not remove.**
- * Make sure the tree is standing straight in the hole; pack small amount of soil around the bottom to hold the tree in place.

- * Add backfill soil to hole and tamp lightly to eliminate air pockets. Backfill soil should be no higher than the top of the rootball, except for rim of berm.
- * Provide a ring of soil (berm) 1" to 2" high around the outside edge of planting hole and apply a 2" to 3" deep layer of mulch. Taper mulch to 1" deep around the trunk area.
- * Stake large trees and shrubs and allow supports to remain for one growing season.
- * Water thoroughly, after planting with 10-15 gallons of water, or until water begins to run off.

Planting Container Grown Trees and Shrubs



- * For burlapped shrubs - follow the advice for Burlapped Tree Plantings.
- * For plastic containers - remove the container. Use a sharp knife to cut spiraling roots by making 4-8 cuts, 1/2 inch deep from top to bottom, to stimulate new root growth.
- * Finish planting as instructed in the last 4 steps of the balled and burlapped area.

General Care of All Trees and Shrubs

- * Apply mulch 2" to 3" deep, keeping mulch away from trunk or stems.
- * Water after planting to thoroughly soak the root area (10-15 gallons for trees and 3 to 5 gallons for shrubs). Use of a plant starter like Up-Start is recommended.
- * Water trees and shrubs with the same amount of water the following day.
- * Use the following guidelines as a general rule according to temperature:
 - 60-75 degrees - water two times per week.
 - 75-90 degrees - water three times per week.
 - over 90 degrees - water every other day.
- * Be sure to thoroughly soak the root area with each watering.
- * A 1" rainfall is necessary to account for one watering during dry periods.
- * Do not allow the rootball to dry out or to be constantly saturated.
- * Adjust watering to the soil and weather conditions, and check the root area frequently.
- * Improper watering is the **number one** cause of poor plant growth.
- * After two weeks, fertilize with Plant Tone or Tree Tone, following the directions on the package.

Using these directions, we have achieved a 95% success rate in our landscape plantings.