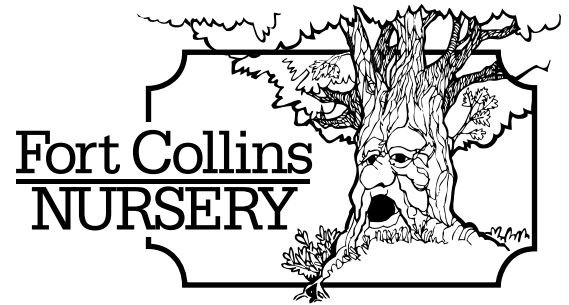


Planting Guide



2121 E. Mulberry St.
Fort Collins, CO 80524
(970) 482-1984 • (866) 384-7516
www.fortcollinsnursery.com

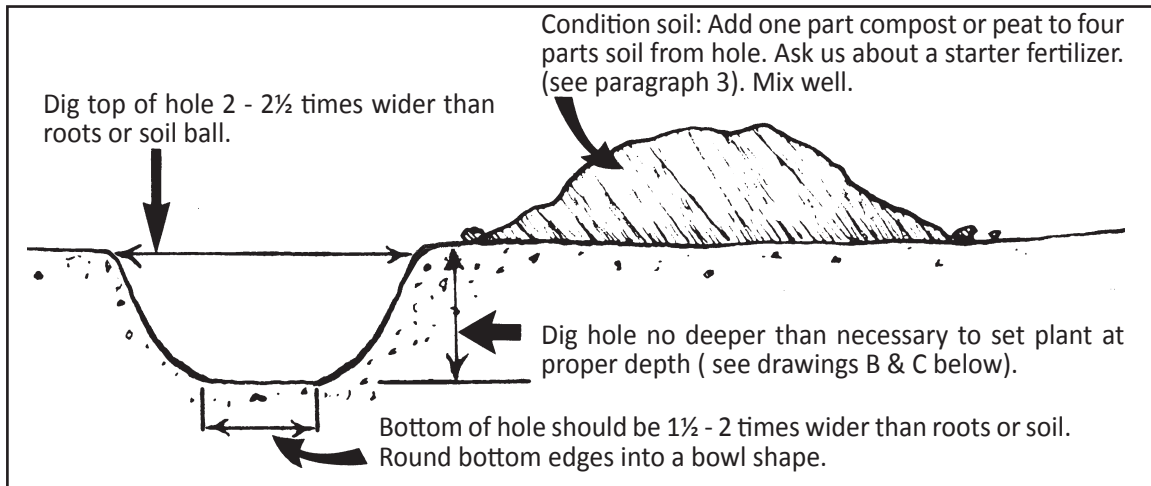
The young plants you have selected for your yard should have special care for the first few years. The early care you supply protects your investment and increases your appreciation of the growth of your plants. Once established, your plants can generally endure greater extremes in growing conditions than when young.

Balled & burlapped and container-grown plants can be planted from March through October in the Fort Collins area. All plants have been pruned at the nursery, so no further trimming is required when you are planting.

1) Handle your plant by the soil ball only, since carrying it by the trunk or stems may loosen the soil ball and damage the roots.

2) Thorough soil preparation is extremely important in assuring the long-term vigor of your plant. Dig the hole 2 - 2½ times wider than the soil ball or root mass, just deep enough to allow setting the plant at the proper depth as shown in drawings B and C. Hole should be rounded at bottom (see drawing A)

A. Hole & Soil



3) We recommend that you condition your soil by mixing either sphagnum peat moss, compost or other soil amendment with the backfill soil in a ratio of one part conditioner to four parts soil. Ask us for a recommendation for the best soil conditioner and starter fertilizer for your plants. These conditioners will more than pay for themselves in terms of immediate plant adaptability and future growth.

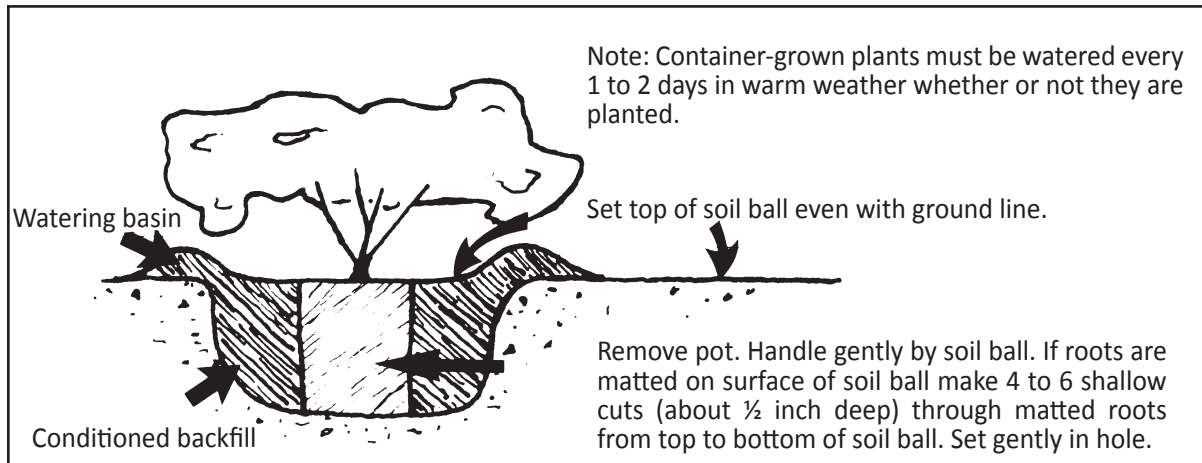
4) Set your plant in the hole so the top of the soil ball or crown is at the appropriate level (see drawings B and C on following page). Straighten and orient your plant in the desired direction.

2121 E. Mulberry St.
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Fort Collins
NURSERY

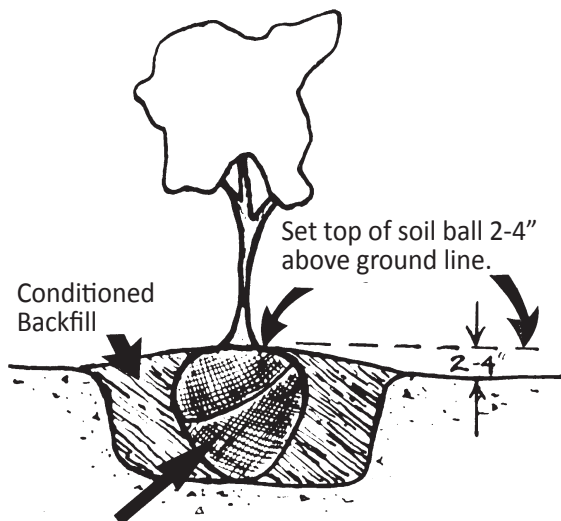
(970) 482-1984 • (866) 384-7516
www.fortcollinsnursery.com

B. Container-Grown Plant



C. Balled & Burlapped Plant

Most balled and burlapped plants have the root ball set in a wire basket for support. After the tree is in the hole and oriented the way you want, cut away the upper portion of the basket. The lower portion may be left under the plant. Trying to remove it may jeopardize the root ball and the plant. Cut the vertical wires of the basket below the second horizontal wire and remove the upper portion. Cut any strings tied around the tree trunk.



- Note: Balled and burlapped plants should be planted immediately.
- Handle gently so as not to loosen soil ball. After setting soil ball in hole, remove string and wire that might constrict roots or stem. Leave burlap on soil ball.
- You may loosen burlap around the trunk after backfilling. Ask nursery personnel for instructions on removing wire baskets.
- Note: If balled & burlapped or bare root plants are planted in a dry area not covered by normal yard irrigation, build a dam around them to form a watering basin as shown in drawing B.

5) Backfill the hole with conditioned soil to about 4 inches from the top. Tamp gently but firmly with a shovel handle to eliminate air pockets. Be careful not to damage the soil ball or root system.

6) Fill the remainder of the hole with water. After the water soaks in, add conditioned soil up to the appropriate level.

7) Water the plant again thoroughly. When the water settles, check to see if additional soil is needed, and then water again.

Watering Guide

Proper watering is the most important factor in keeping plants growing vigorously, yet it is the most difficult procedure for which to give standard recommendations. Watering needs vary with individual plant requirements as well as the soil type, drainage, exposure and weather.

You can develop your own watering schedule from your own experience by checking the soil moisture when you think your plant needs watering. Dig down about 6 inches deep just outside the root zone. If the soil forms a moist ball, wait a few more days before watering. Do not worry about the dryness of the top inch of soil. Most importantly, OBSERVE YOUR PLANTS.

Plant roots need both air and water for development. If you water too frequently, the soil remains constantly wet and excludes oxygen from the roots. When you do water, soak the ground thoroughly enough to saturate the root zone. Allow adequate time between waterings to permit the soil to drain and air to penetrate into the root zone.

Plants in one gallon pots or smaller will need to be watered more often than larger plants until established. Some trees, such as, Pine, Birch, and hard Maple are especially sensitive to over watering. Plants that were balled & burlapped when planted are more subject to damage by over watering than plants that were grown in containers. New plantings in lawns may get adequate water from normal lawn watering, depending on your watering habits.

Tentative watering schedule for container-grown plants for the FIRST MONTH AFTER PLANTING

If you are planting from:

February to April 1..... water 1 time per week
April 1 to June 1..... water 2 to 3 times per week
June 1 to August 15..... water 3 to 5 times per week
August 15 to September 15..... water 2 to 3 times per week
Fall months water once a week
Winter water once per month (especially evergreens)

Note: Three to four weeks after planting, the roots of a container-grown plant will be growing into the surrounding soil, giving the plant a larger volume of soil from which to draw water. You should gradually extend the period between waterings over the second month until you reach a schedule similar to the one below for balled & burlapped plants.

Tentative watering schedule for balled & burlapped plants for the FIRST SEASON

April to September water heavily once a week
Fall months water heavily once a month
Winter water once or twice

These schedules are a rule of thumb and must be modified for your soil and weather conditions. Extremely hot, windy weather will dry your plants more readily and your plants will require more frequent water. Also, sandy and porous soils may require more frequent watering. The above schedules are for the first growing season. After that time, you should be able to water less frequently as your plants develop deeper roots.

Check the Soil and Look at the Plants!

2121 E. Mulberry St.
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Fort Collins
NURSERY

(970) 482-1984 • (866) 384-7516
www.fortcollinsnursery.com

General Care

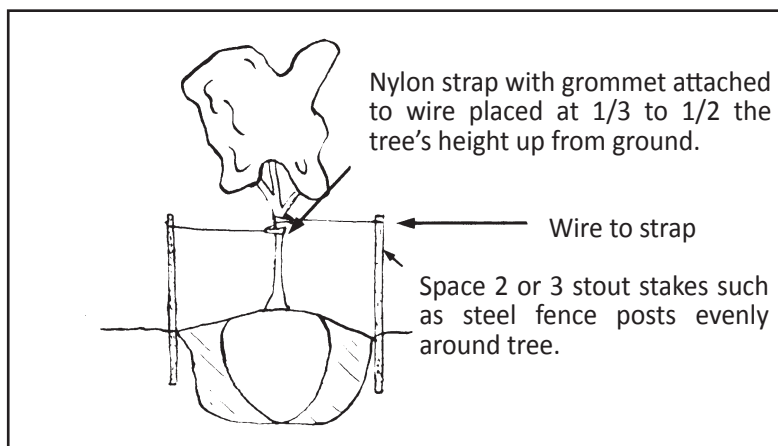
Fertilization - If you conditioned your soil as we recommended, the only fertilization you should need is a root stimulator. No other fertilizer should be used to fertilize your plants during the first season. In the following years, an application of fertilizer once a year in the spring will boost growth. There are several methods of fertilizer application and fertilizers for particular plant requirements, so please consult us at the nursery for your specific needs.

Mulches - Mulches are materials that cover the ground around and between plants. They reduce water evaporation and weed growth as well as moderate the soil temperature in the root zone throughout the year. Commonly used mulch materials are bark chips, wood shavings or gravel. They are spread from 2 to 4 inches deep on the soil surface.

You can spread the mulch directly up to the base of the plant. You may want to spread a fabric weed barrier on the soil surface before adding mulch. There are several fiber and plastic mesh materials that effectively block out weeds. The mesh materials allow air circulation in the soil around the roots.

You can also mulch by cultivating shallowly with a hoe and loosening the soil surface, creating a soil mulch. Do not cultivate deeper than 1 to 2 inches or you may injure plant roots.

Staking - Staking is usually needed to support newly-planted evergreen trees over 5 feet tall and large deciduous trees with trunks over 2 inches in diameter. If a small tree seems top-heavy and sways dramatically in the wind, it is better to carefully prune out some of the foliage rather than stake the trunk. If it is necessary to stake your tree, leave the supports around the trees for one, or at the most, two growing seasons. **MAKE SURE THE SUPPORTS ARE NOT RUBBING OR GIRDLING THE BARK.** Make sure your stakes are clearly visible to eliminate hazards to people or machinery.



Winter Care - In this area, most winter damage to plants is caused by desiccation (drying out) of plant tissues. The combination of strong winds, intense sunlight and sparse winter moisture causes stress to plants. Water periodically in the fall and winter as long as the ground will take up water. (See watering schedules on the previous page.)

Wrap the trunks of your newly-planted deciduous trees with tree wrap in late fall to prevent sunscald, and remove the wrap in the spring.

Insects and Diseases - A plant that is not stressed by poor soil, light, nutrient or moisture conditions will be better able to resist damage from insects and diseases. Ask us for help in identifying and treating plant problems.

Remember, we are as close as the phone to answer your questions. We care about your plants, and we want to help you keep them beautiful and satisfying.

2121 E. Mulberry St.
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Fort Collins
NURSEY

(970) 482-1984 • (866) 384-7516
www.fortcollinsnursery.com