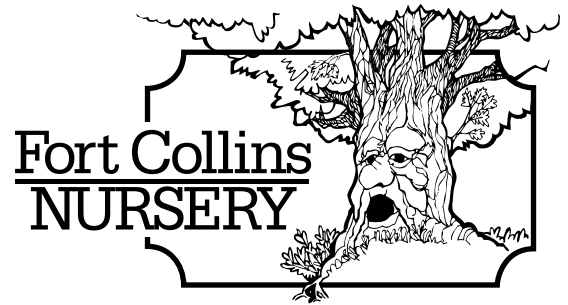


Planting Guide



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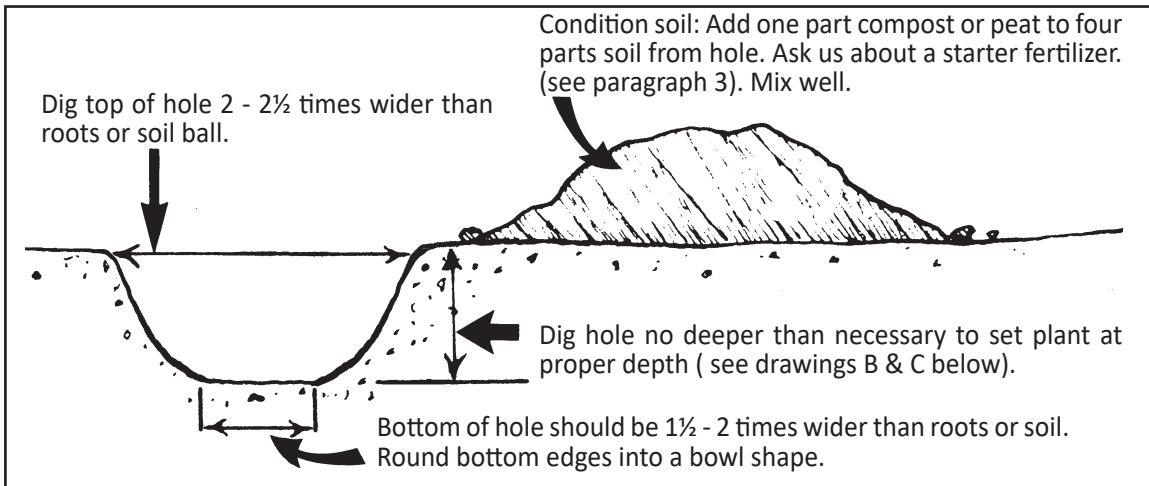
The young plants you have selected for your yard need special care for the first few years. The early care you supply protects your investment and increases your appreciation of the growth of your plants. Once established, your plants can generally endure greater extremes in growing conditions than when 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 you to set the plant at the proper depth as shown in drawings B and C. The hole should be rounded at the bottom (see drawing A).

A. Hole & Soil



3) We recommend that you condition your soil by mixing peat moss, compost or other soil amendments with the backfill soil at a ratio of one part conditioner to four parts native soil. More is not better! Ask us for a recommendation for the best soil conditioner and starter fertilizer for your new plants. These will more than pay for themselves in terms of immediate plant adaptability and future growth.

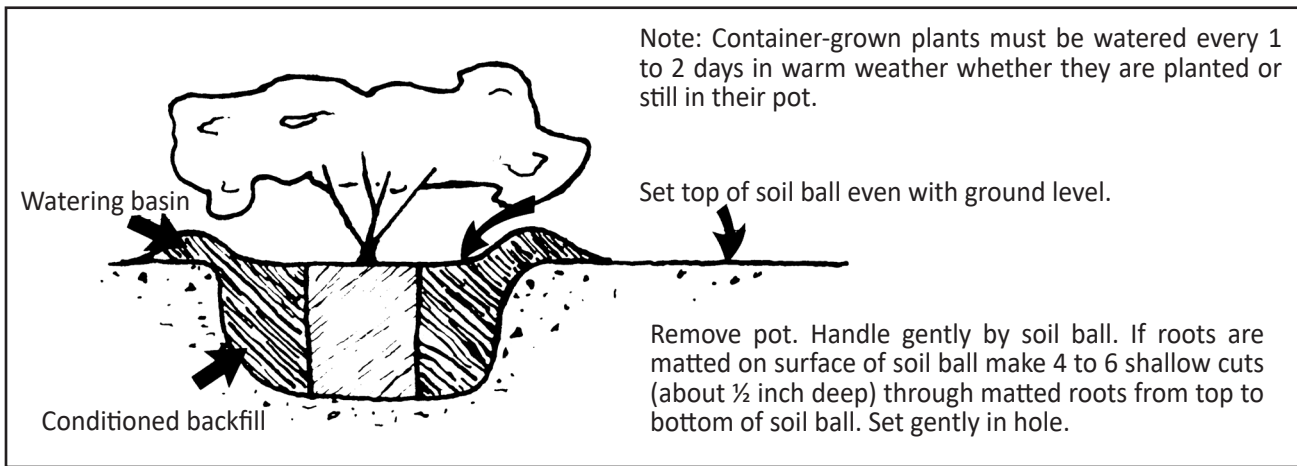
4) Set your plant in the hole so the top of the soil ball or crown is at the appropriate level (see drawings B and C on following page). Straighten and orient your plant in the desired direction.

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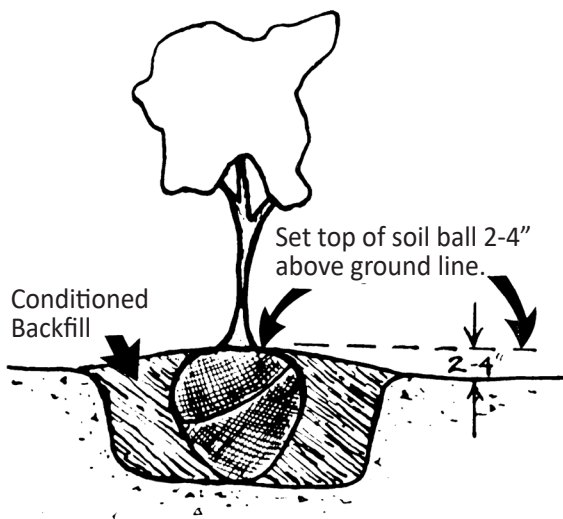
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B. Container-Grown Plant



C. Balled & Burlapped Plant

Some balled and burlapped plants come with a wire basket around the root ball for support. Once the tree is in the hole, cut away the wire. You may need to tilt the tree to get the basket out. It is very important to cut off any twine or burlap wrapped around the base of the trunk. Unless it falls off easily, burlap around the sides and bottom of the root ball may remain.



- Balled and burlapped plants should be planted immediately.
- Handle as gently as possible so as not to loosen soil ball.
- After setting soil ball in hole, remove any twine or wire that might constrict roots or stem.
- Build a water retention berm around the back-filled soil as shown in drawing B.

5) Backfill the hole with conditioned soil. Tamp the backfill gently with a shovel handle to eliminate air pockets, being careful not to damage the soil ball or roots.

6) Use backfill soil to create a raised berm around the outer edge of the hole, as shown in drawing B.

7) Water the plant until the raised soil berm is full. When the water settles, check to see if additional soil is needed, then water gain.

Watering Guide

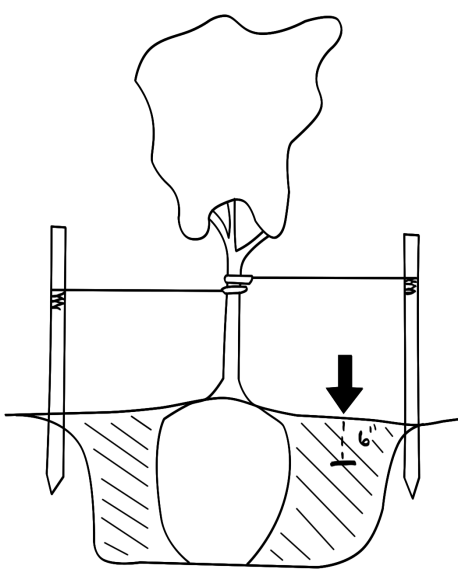
Proper watering is the most important factor in keeping plants growing vigorously, yet it is the most difficult procedure for which to give standard recommendations. Watering needs vary with individual plant requirements as well as the soil type, drainage, exposure and weather.

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 varieties of trees are especially sensitive to over watering, so be sure to check with a Nursery Associate for specific information regarding your trees. 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.

How to Check the Soil



When your new plant is first planted, it will be watered thoroughly. The day after that, check the soil moisture beneath the surface by digging down about 6" just outside the root zone. Take a handful of soil and squeeze it.

- If the soil is too wet, it will form a tight ball. Do not add water - come back and check again in a day or two.
- If the soil is dry, it will crumble and fall apart. Water deeply by filling the berm to the top and letting the water drain down into the newly planted soil.
- If the soil is damp and springy like a wrung-out sponge, it has the right amount of moisture. Come back and check again the next day.

Following these procedures for the first month after planting will help you determine how much water your plant needs, and how often. After that time, roots will start to grow into the surrounding soil, giving the plant a larger volume of soil from which to draw water.

These are general best practices 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 procedures 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!

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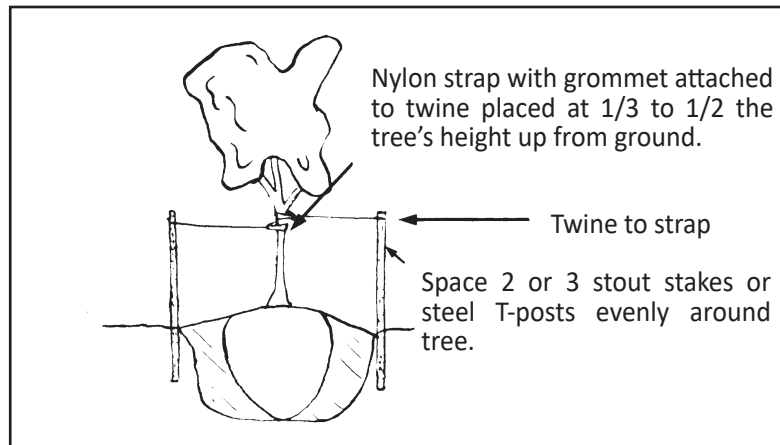
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General Care

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 on 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 and 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. Do not cover the newly planted soil with mulch. After a couple of weeks of regular watering and observing the rate at which that water is absorbed, you will know if the plant needs to be mulched. If you find the plant is drying out too quickly, cover the newly planted area with mulch and leave a 2" space around the base of the trunk or stem. 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 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. Wrap the trunks of your newly-planted deciduous trees with tree wrap around Halloween to prevent sunscald, and remove the wrap in April. Be sure to wrap Lindens, Maples, Redbuds and Serviceberries.

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.

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