



## HOW TO PLANT TREES AND SHRUBS

Getting trees and shrubs staked right is critical to years of enjoyment from your trees and shrubs. This flyer will help you do the job right.

**1. Soil Preparation.** Digging a planting hole is significantly easier if the soil you are working in is moist. Pre-water the area you plan to work in with a gentle, long, slow soak a day or two before you begin planting. (Use a soaker hose or oscillating sprinkler to give the area the equivalent of a long winter rain.)

Water the plant material in its container before you plant it as well as after.

Dig a hole at least twice as wide and the same height as the nursery container your plant came home in. Be generous with the planting hole width. A wide planting hole with Master Nursery Planting Mix. Mix the existing soil with the planting mix at a 50/50 ratio, existing soil to planting mix.

Be sure to mix Master Start Fertilizer to your soil blend by adding the appropriate amount of amended soil and mix together thoroughly. The rule of thumb is one tablespoon of fertilizer per gallon of pot being planted.

**2. Planting.** Plant the shrub by carefully removing it from the container. Gently rough the outer edges of the root ball and place it in the hole so that the top of the root ball rests slightly higher than the existing ground level (never place any soil above root ball, covering the stem). Use some of the extra soil to build a circular dam around the new plant to hold a generous quantity of irrigation water.

**3. Watering.** Water the plant in well after you have finished planting it. Let the water soak in, and then water again.

Nursery plants are often watered every day to keep them thriving. Once your plant is in the ground at home, its water needs will soon decrease. While the plant is getting established, finger-check the moisture in the root ball daily and be prepared to water daily if necessary. Water deeply and less frequently as weeks pass. Most plants require 3 to 4 waterings a week when planted in warmer months, little water over the cooler months, and only 1 to 3 waterings a week the following spring/summer.

**4. Feeding.** Begin to feed your new plant after a month or two with appropriate fertilizer. Continue feeding every 4 to 6 weeks.

By following these steps, your new plants will grow and thrive. We also recognize that we are partners with you in caring for your new plant. If you have any concerns about the health or vigor of your plant, please let us know.



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