



Tree and Shrub Planting Guide

Most, if not all containerized trees and shrubs start out grown in pots, so the first time they are grown in the ground may be in your yard and landscape. A little preparation and care prior to planting will go a long way for success of a newly planted tree or shrub.

Before You Plant

A tree is a long-term investment so make sure the mature size and characteristics fit the area you want to plant. Nothing is more unsightly than the middle of a tree cut out to accommodate utility lines. Tree root invasion into underground pipes or septic systems can be detrimental to the life of a tree as well.

Planting Hole

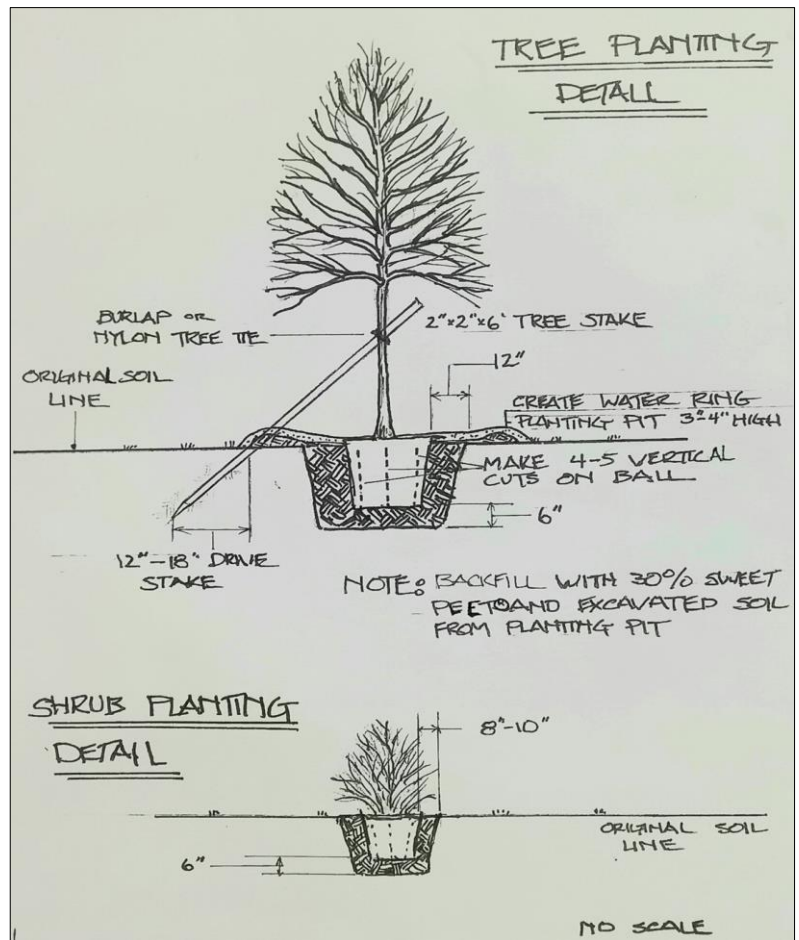
Dig the planting hole up to 12 inches wider than the container size, with up to 6 inches of extra depth for a mound of amended soil beneath the root ball to sit upon.

Break up the soil removed from the planting hole and mix in a third of Sweet Peet® organic mulch, other organic matter or

compost especially if the soil is heavy clay and may be lacking in nutrients. Granular Espoma Organic® Bio-Tone® Starter fertilizer can be mixed in with the amended soil at planting time at a rate of one cup for a two-gallon potted tree or shrub. Two cups for a five-gallon tree or shrub. A starter fertilizer will help stimulate root growth and reduce transplant shock. Liquid Plant Starter from Bonide® can also be used when watering.

Planting

With the hole dug and the removed soil amended with organic matter, mound soil into the bottom of the planting hole for the root ball to sit upon. Tamp it down to make it firm and remove any air pockets. Carefully remove your plant from the grow pot. Work the roots free from the circular pattern that the pot causes it to grow in. If the roots are tight and appear to be rootbound, make 4-5 vertical cuts around the root ball. This will redirect the roots to grow into the surrounding soil. Check to see if the tree/shrub is level and not tilting to one side. Begin back filling amended soil all around the plant until you reach the root crown or flare (where the trunk meets the root system). The root crown should be slightly above the ground soil line. A tree will eventually fail if it is planted too deep. Create a ring of soil 3 to 4 inches above the planting level to act as a saucer to help retain water around the base of the tree.



Watering

If trees or shrubs cannot be planted for several days, water the container daily. Some smaller containers may need watered twice daily in extreme hot weather.

Water newly planted tree/shrub thoroughly. Then every 7 to 10 days for the first year and possibly into the second summer depending on how hot and dry the weather. Use a soaker hose or very slow trickle from a garden hose for 2 hours will provide sufficient water deeply to the roots where it is needed.

Staking

Staking is not necessary in every planting situation. Some of the reasons to stake:

- A young tree is planted in a windy location
- Trees with heavy branches and leaf cover compared to size of root ball
- Heavy traffic area where people may disturb newly planted trees like parks and playgrounds
- Young tree variety with weak or flexible trunks

If staking is necessary, choose tie material that is flexible such as burlap, nylon or rubber hose pieces. Use 2"x2" wooden stakes. Pound them into the ground 12 to 18 inches, away from the rootball but within the planting hole. Secure ties so that the tree can move slightly with a natural sway in wind. If it is too tight, the resistance will cause damage to the trunk rubbing against the stake. The slight movement will help the tree develop strong roots more quickly. Remove stakes at the end of the first growing season.

Mulching

Spread a 2 to 3 inch layer of mulch around the base of the tree to help retain moisture, suppress weed growth and to keep lawnmowers and string trimmers away from the trunk of the tree.

Balled and Burlap Trees

Dig the hole, amend the soil and plant using the instructions above for potted trees and shrubs. There are different viewpoints on whether to remove burlap and any wire cages or leave them on. We recommend removing any burlap, wire baskets and roping. Natural burlap and roping will disintegrate over time, but the wire basket, nylon roping or burlap with nylon will not.

Return Policy

With a Receipt – Any returned items accompanied by a receipt dated within 14 days of purchase will be refunded at the original purchase price, plus applicable sales tax, in the original payment method. Merchandise must be in the same condition as when purchased. No cash refund will be issued after 14 days. Any returns after 14 days will be issued only in the form of an Andy's Garden gift card. Does not apply to plant guarantee. Purchases made by check are subject to a seven-day waiting period for cash refunds. A service charge of \$50.00 will be applied for any returned checks.

Without a Receipt – Any items returned without a receipt will be issued an Andy's Garden gift card for the lowest sale price or 10% Restocking Fee. Does not apply to plant guarantee.

Plant Guarantee – Hardy Trees and Shrubs are guaranteed with proper care for one year from date of purchase. Plant must accompany receipt and be in original container for an even exchange for original purchase price or for an Andy's Garden gift card. Plants will be replaced one time only. Plants must be planted for guarantee to apply. All other plants, including roses are guaranteed for 30 days. **Guarantee does not cover frost/freezing temperatures. Neglect due to improper watering and planting.**

Plants discounted 25% or more will not be guaranteed-Final Sale. In-store purchases only. All special orders must accompany a non-refundable deposit (50% of purchase price). All clearance items are sold as is, non-returnable. No returns on bulk mulch, compost or sod. No returns on bulk items sold by weight. No returns on open or broken bags of soil or mulch. Andy's Garden reserves the right to change policy at any time with or without notice.