

Hand planting potted trees

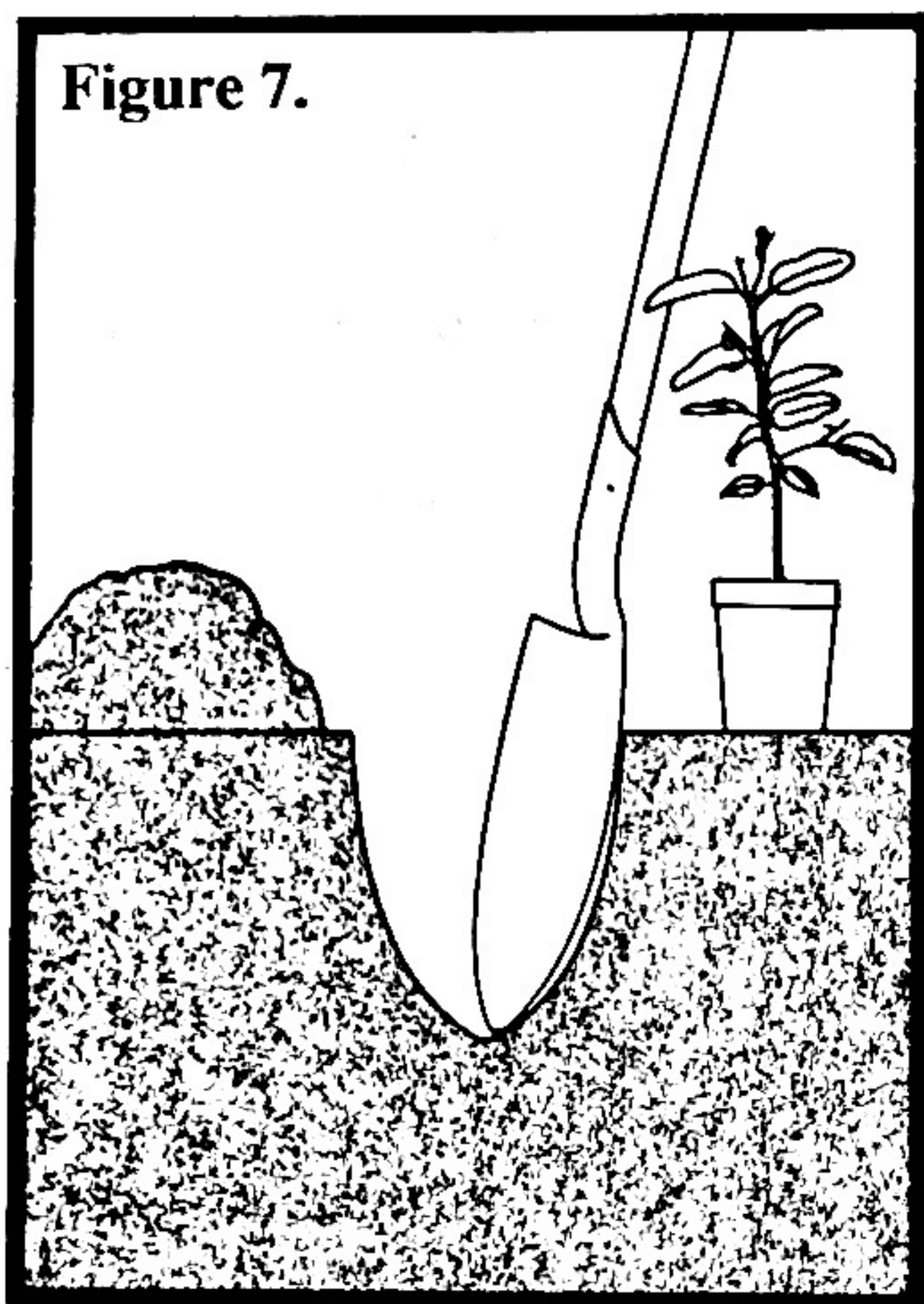


Figure 7.

Dig a hole in moist prepared soil. The hole should be large enough to accommodate the teased root system of the tree you are planting.

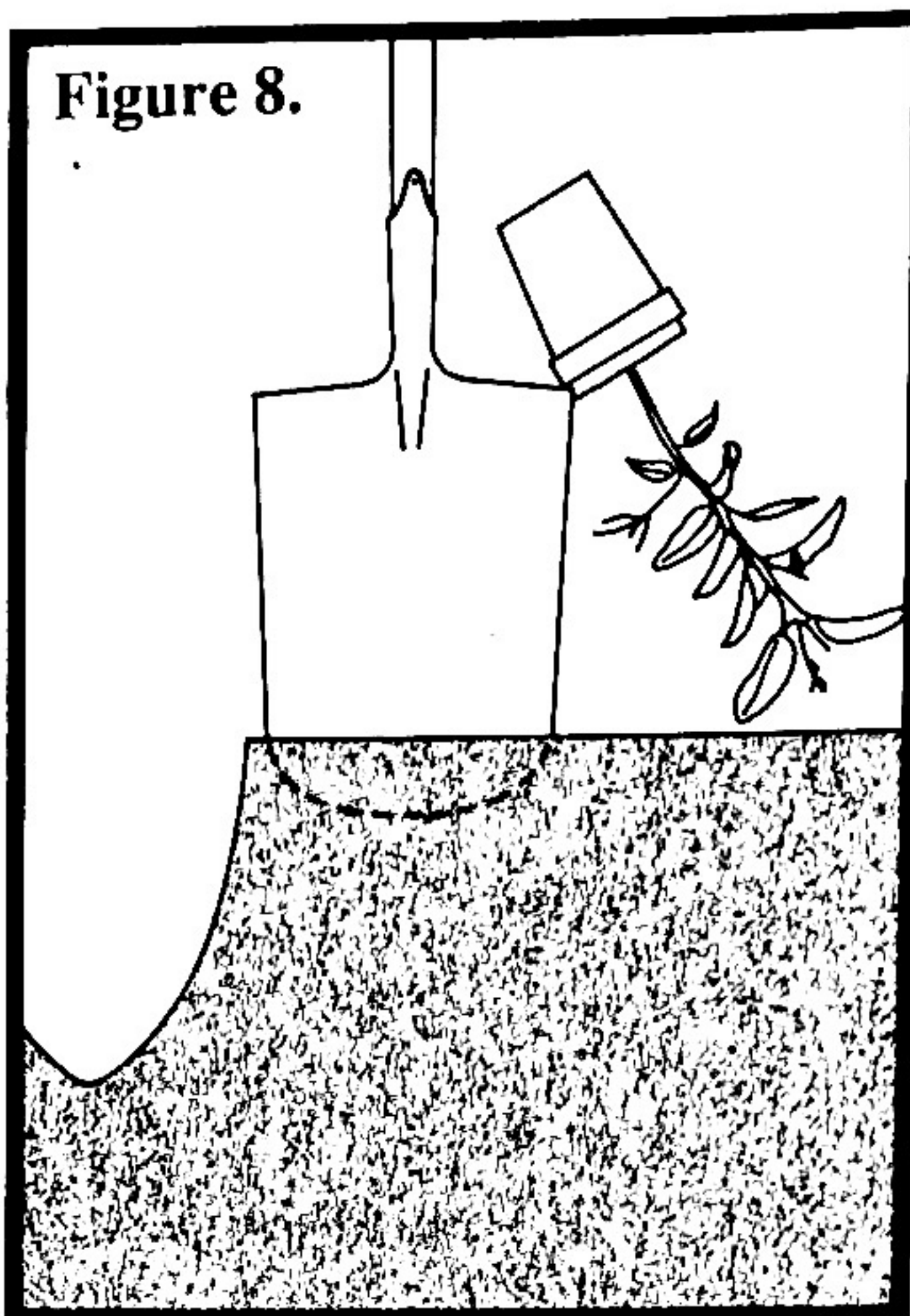


Figure 8.

Invert the pot and, with your fingers on either side of the stem, tap out the tree on a solid object. The plant should slide easily out of the container.



Figure 9.

Gently tease out the basal and side roots. If the tap root is coiled and will not straighten, remove it with secateurs. It is better the tree replaces its tap root than remains with a coiled one. If the plants have been grown in peat pots, break the bottom out of the pots and tease out the roots. Trees grown in "froot training" pots are available from many nurseries.

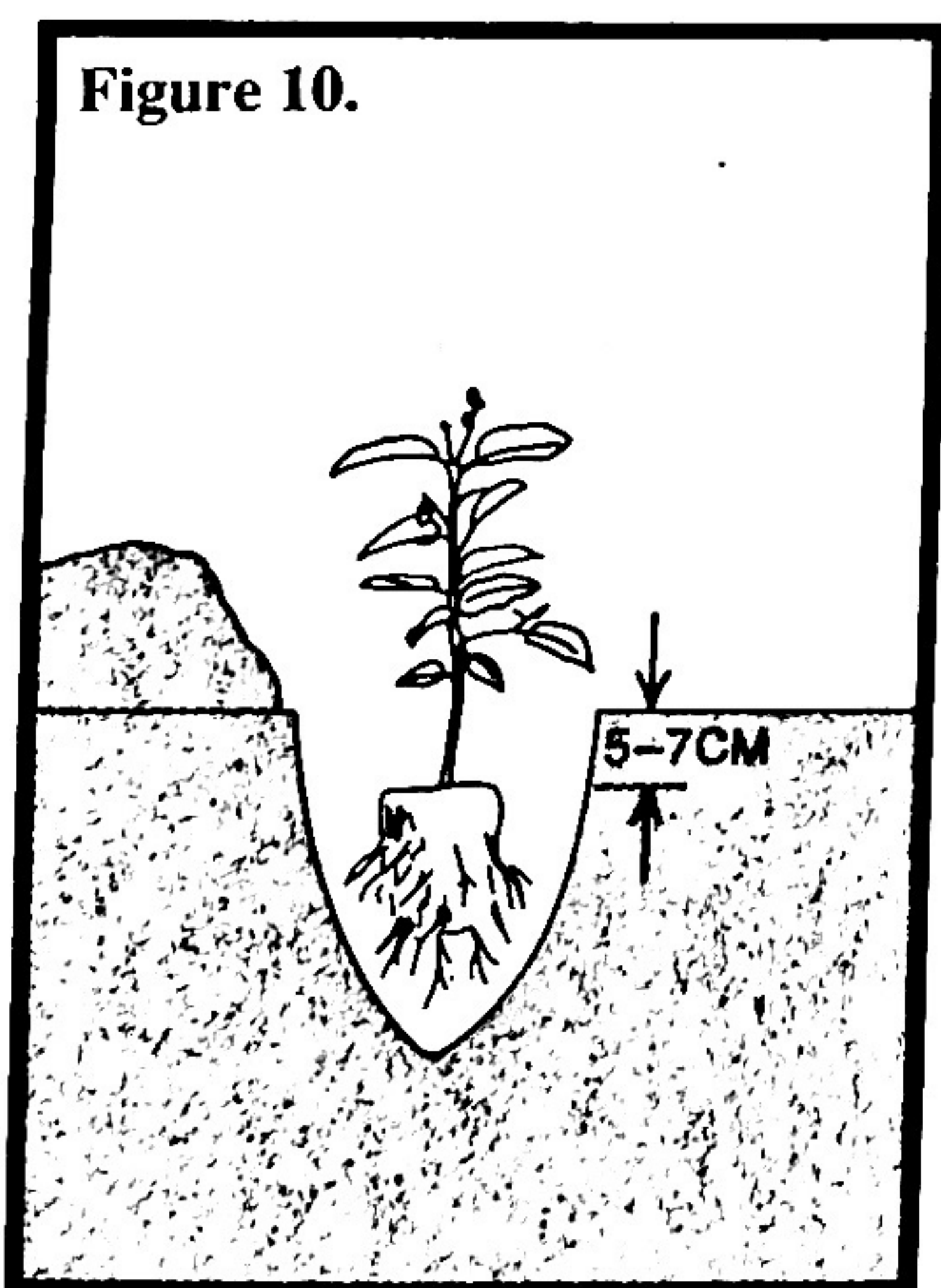


Figure 10.

Place the plant in the centre of the hole 5-7cm deeper than it was in the pot. In sandy soils that dry out quickly, plant even deeper. Make sure the roots are arranged in a natural position and not bending upwards or coiled.

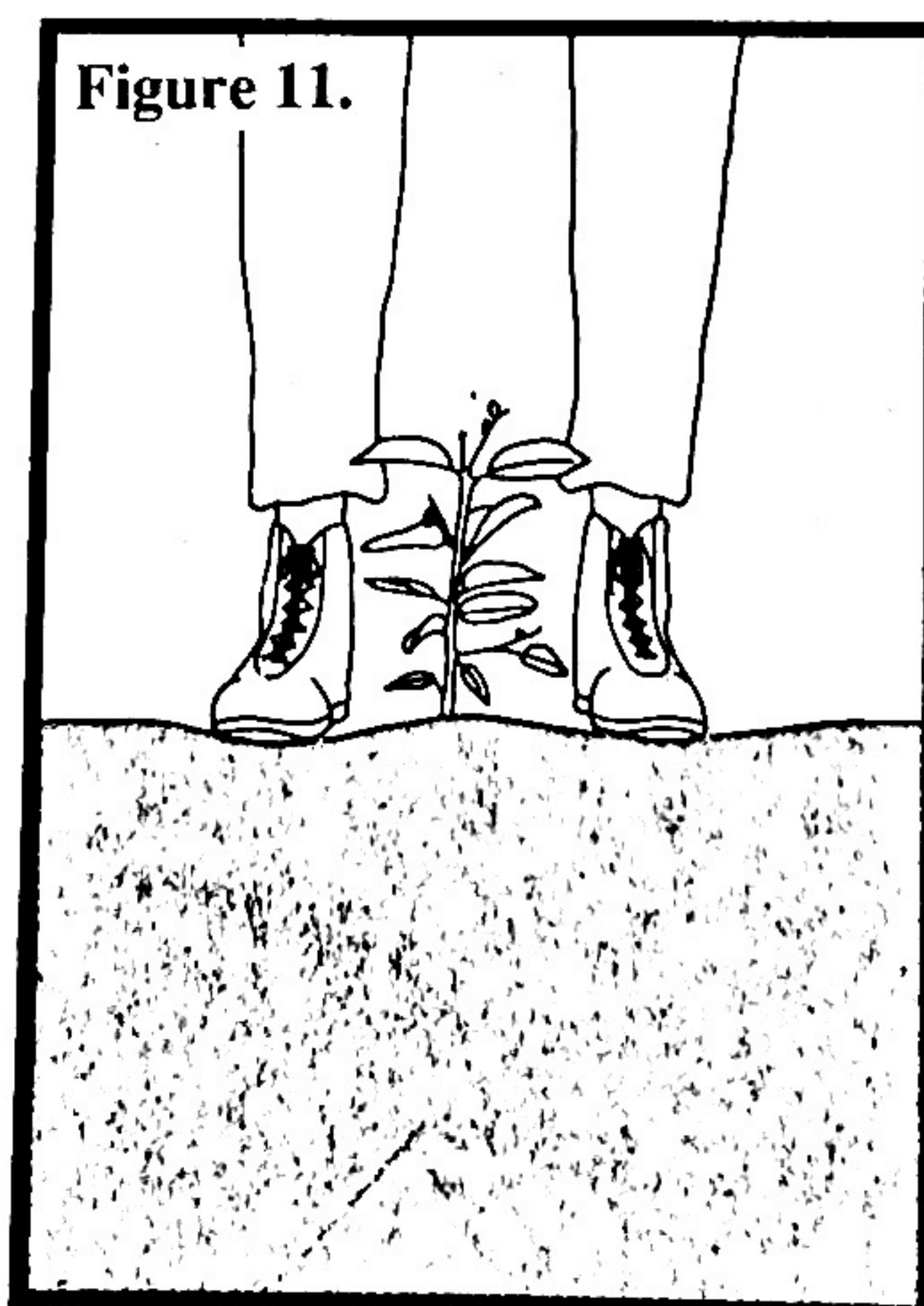


Figure 11.

Fill the hole, ensuring the tree is upright and gently firm the soil around the plant using your feet.



Figure 12.

Provide a basin around the plant using soil. This helps to concentrate water close to the tree's roots. Press soil around the tree with your foot and create a saucer-like depression to trap water.

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