

SIMPLE PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

B & B Trees and Shrubs:

1. Dig your hole two feet wider than the diameter of your root ball, but no deeper than the root ball height itself.
2. Time to add soil amendments. Add ½ amendments, ie: compost, cow manure or peat, etc... Mix ½ your soil with ½ amendments. Mix together to add as you plant your new plant.
3. Put the mixed soil in the bottom of the hole; a few inches will be good. Place B&B into the hole. Backfill with your amendments packing soil around the root ball. Before you cover the top of your B&B, cut the binding twine that is wrapped around the plants trunk; pull the burlap back exposing the top of the root ball. Now cover completely. Soil should be flush with the top of the root ball.
4. Water slowly until your newly planted B&B plant is deeply saturated. You may need to add more soil after the first watering.
5. NOTE: If you are planting in heavy clay soils, the plant should be planted slightly elevated. Heavy soils sometimes act like a cup and retain water. If this were to happen, it could possibly rot the root ball.

Container Grown Trees and Shrubs:

1. Remove stock from container.
2. Loosen up root ball with hands on sides and bottom. If the roots are too tight, insert a razor knife about ¼" deep into the root ball, going top to bottom, working cuts around the root ball approximately 2" apart. Then cut a couple of X's across the bottom.
3. Dig the hole to the depth where approximately 1" of the root ball will be above existing area around the hole; 2" when planting in clay. Dig the hole 8" wider than the root ball. Set plant in the center of the hole making sure it is straight. Backfill with soil and amendments half way up the root ball; water and then check for straightness. Finish filling hole with soil and water. Using this 2 step method eliminates air pockets and plant shifting. Apply 2 – 2 ½" of mulch or wood chips around the base of the plant. Never apply directly to the trunk itself.

Watering the First Year:

Many problems can arise with too much or not enough watering the first year. Newly planted trees and shrubs, etc. need to be watered approximately twice a week with a slow hose drip or a soaker hose for 20 – 30 minutes. If the root system is incredibly large, more water will be needed.

To check the water level, stick a ¼" dowel gently in the root system. Leave it in place for at least ½ hour then come back and remove it. If there is no soil on it, the soil is dry. If it has soil on it, the plant has enough water.

Watering may be required more frequently on dry, hot, windy days. Underground sprinkling is *not sufficient* for watering newly planted trees or shrubs, etc.

Here are a few friendly reminders:

1. Read all planting instructions.
2. Prune out any broken or damaged branches that may have happened during transporting.
3. Handle plants properly by picking them up by their container or the twine on the top of the root ball.
4. Water immediately after planting. If you cannot do so, keep plants in a cool area and do not let them dry out.
5. Never plant a plant too deep. This will kill it!
6. Trees do not need to be fertilized during their first year and please do not plant anything close to the base of the plant for its first growing season.

All of us at The Olive Branch Plant Center would like to thank you for your business. We hope these guidelines will help you in your gardening success. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at 616-399-1150.