



Tree Specialists, Inc.

140 Washington Street | Holliston, Massachusetts 01746
T 508.429.8733 F 508.429.7991 info@treespecialists.com

Committed to landscape conservation, preservation and restoration

In nature, trees occur in communities based on their individual requirements. Although habitats can vary from savannah to wetlands, growth characteristics are usually the same. Trees exhibit flares and valleys above the soil line and roots grow horizontally and in most cases within the top 18 inches of soil. Leaves and twigs decompose year after year without excessive build up around the trunk. When planting, think about what you see in nature.

TREE PLANTING TECHNIQUES

Observing the Natural Process

Planting Notes

- Construct soil berms beyond the planting basin. They are optional, but if built should be dismantled after 6-months to encourage root growth outside of the planting basin.
- Tree should be staked tight at a point less than 1/2 the height of the tree. This allows for top movement, but stabilizes the root ball for better root establishment.
- Water as needed if natural rainfall does not provide 1-inch of water per week, from April-November, for 1-year per inch of stem diameter. Water with a sprinkler that simulates fake rain, rather than with a hose end. Water beyond the dripline to encourage root establishment outside of the planting basin.

Planting Steps to Follow

Now that you have selected the right tree for the right location, handle the tree with great care to the preapproved planting site. Move balled and burlapped trees by the root balls. Take special care to protect the stem, branches and foliage from physical and environmental stresses.

1. Cut and remove the wire basket; untie twine and burlap and pull away from the stem.
2. Locate the tree's trunk flare by careful excavation of extra soil. Use a hose or whiskbroom to expose potential girdling and adventitious roots. Prune off with sharp pruners. If girdling roots are excessive and the tree does not have a prominent trunk flare, return it to the supplier.
3. Prepare the planting basin depth by determining the distance between the exposed trunk flare and the bottom of the remaining ball. The depth of the basin is dependent on this measurement. If soil has a foul smell and has colors of blue and gray, the soil may not be draining properly.
4. Use a straight edge (shovel handle) across the basin's existing grade when measuring proper depth. Raise the tree one inch for each inch in caliper to compensate for future settling (up to 6 inches).



Tree Specialists, Inc.

140 Washington Street | Holliston, Massachusetts 01746
T 508.429.8733 F 508.429.7991 info@treespecialists.com

Committed to landscape conservation, preservation and restoration

5. Prepare planting basin 2-3 times the ball width. The shape should resemble a bowl with sloping sides.
6. Slide or roll the tree into the bowl and check depth, make adjustments, as needed. Remove all packaging material.
7. Prune any exposed or damaged roots with sharp pruners.
8. Backfill with parent soil while watering, using shovel handle to work out air pockets. Do not use foot to compact soil.
9. Construct soil berms outside of the plant's root ball width. Berms are optional and should be dismantled after six months to encourage root growth outside of the planting basin.
10. Stake the tree, only when needed, in a triangular configuration, using webbed strapping, not wire and hose. Stakes and strapping must be removed once the tree is rooted and stable.
11. Apply 2-4 inches of seasoned woodchips around the entire planting area up to, but not touching the trunk flare.
12. On young trees, new transplants, and thin-barked species, sudden exposure to direct sunlight can cause "sun scald." This can be avoided by shading the area with landscape fabric or a plastic mesh product

After care should include one year of intensive monitoring for each inch of stem diameter. This includes remulching, watering (April-November) and use of bios-timulants as needed.