



FORESTRY EXTENSION NOTES

Tips For Proper Planting of Containerized Trees

When you go to pick up your tree bring along:

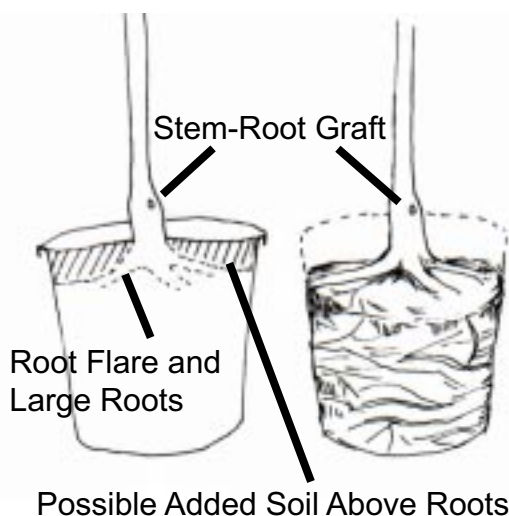
- One or two gallons of water to hydrate the roots with
- A large old blanket or tarp to cover the branches with, keeping the wind from tattering new leaves, break branches or buds and also reduce the drying effects of wind and sun
- Rope or twine to keep everything from blowing around or falling out of vehicle
- If possible, use an enclosed vehicle or trailer to transport trees so they aren't exposed to excessive wind that could damage the tree on the trip home

After selecting and purchasing a containerized tree:

- Always handle tree by the container to prevent damage to the root mass and base of trunk attachment

Back home and ready to plant:

- Keep tree in shaded location and maintain a moist root mass until planted
- Locate where the large supporting roots are found within the container. They may be visible on the surface or might be covered by a couple inches of soil



- These large supporting roots will help you identify the correct depth at which to dig the hole. At the base of a typical non-transplanted tree these large roots will be found at the ground surface
- Serious root related problems can arise in the future when trees have been transplanted too deep (girdling roots strangle the stem causing premature decline, increased chance of wind-throw)

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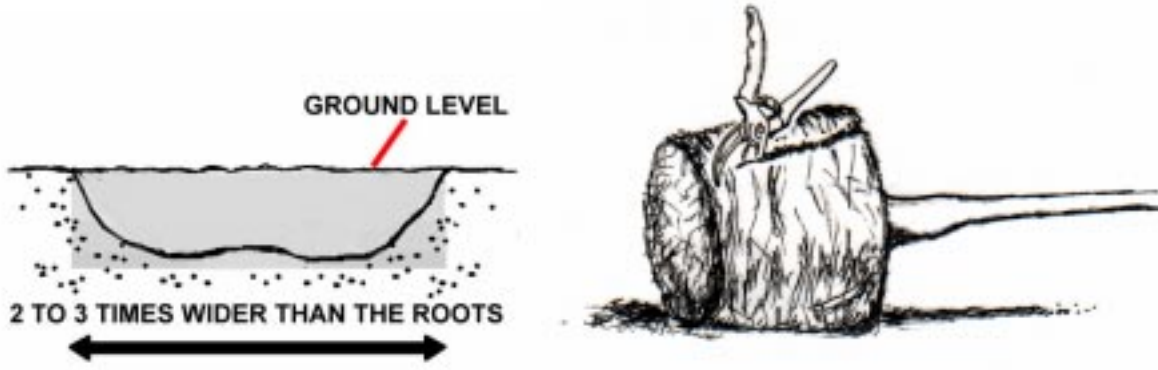
...and justice for all

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Size and Shape of the Hole:

- Use the blanket or tarp from the trip home to put the soil on when you start to dig
- The diameter of the hole should be three to four times the width of the container
- The sides of the hole should be angled back at least 45° and roughed up
- Again, do not dig the hole any deeper than necessary, the large supporting roots should be even with the top of the hole



Inspect Root Mass for Circling and Girdling Roots:

- Place tree on its side and remove the entire container
- Using a sharp utility knife or hand pruners make four or five lengthwise cuts into the sides of the root mass to sever any circling roots. Make four or five cuts across the bottom side of root mass also
- Loosen up surface roots with your fingers and straighten out any large roots
- While holding onto root mass, center the tree in hole and make sure the top of the roots are at the surface of the ground
- Adjust the vertical plumb as needed

Back-filling the Hole, Mulching:

- Do not amend back-fill soil with mulch or compost, but do break it up as much as possible
- Fill in hole and then place three to four inches of wood or bark chip mulch around the tree, two or three feet wider than the diameter of hole
- Keep the mulch six inches away from the base of the tree to prevent moisture buildup on bark
- Lightly step around hole to firm up soil underneath mulch

Initial Watering:

- Slowly and thoroughly water the tree to eliminate any big air pockets in soil

