

## **PLANTING TIPS FOR TREES AND SHRUBS**

1. Before transporting trees or shrubs, make sure they are properly wrapped and out of the wind.
2. Don't allow plant roots to dry out or be exposed to the hot sun for any extended period of time.
3. Dig holes for your plant before purchasing, OR as soon as possible afterwards to reduce the chance of the roots drying out.
4. Dig the hole for your plant twice as wide as the root ball. Dig the hole for your plant only a couple of inches deeper than the root ball.
5. Using the extra soil from the hole, mix with compost or whatever amendments are recommended for that particular plant. Backfill the hole with a couple of inches of this mixture.
6. If plants are in containers, remove them from the container before planting. If roots are spiraling, cut vertical slices in the sides and bottom of the root ball and pull apart gently. This will allow them to take hold quicker.
7. If plants are balled and burlapped, remove the top third of the burlap as long as the roots will not be disturbed. If wire is exposed, bend it down or cut off the top third to avoid wire from poking through the soil.
8. Place the plant in the hole and firmly pack the soil around it to ensure that there are no air pockets in the soil. The plant should be an inch or two above the existing soil level to allow for settling and mulching around the plant.
9. Do not let soil or mulch cover the stem of the plant.
10. Water thoroughly after planting. Place your garden hose at the base of the shrub or tree and allow the water to trickle out slowly until the ground is deeply saturated. Don't allow the plant to dry out!
11. Daily watering is usually necessary until the plant is established.
12. Fertilizing is recommended. Ask a professional which fertilizer will work best. Carefully follow the instructions on the fertilizer container.