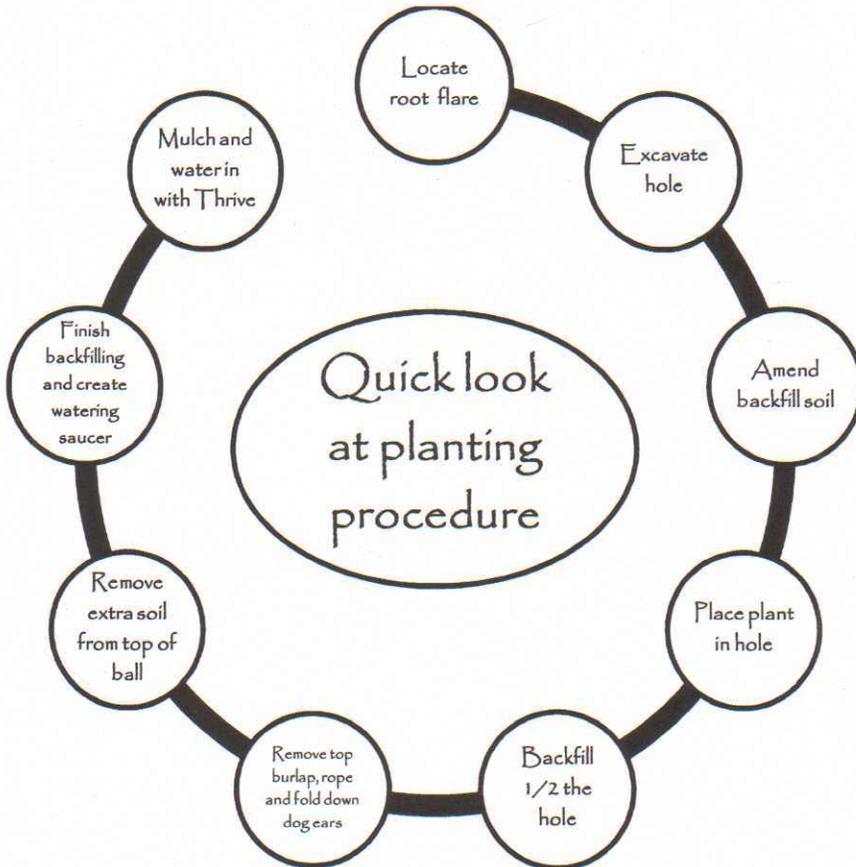




Please read entire instruction sheet before digging and contact us with any questions.

Planting Instructions



The plant you just purchased is used to growing in nursery conditions and a certain amount of care is required during its establishment period to acclimate it to its new home.

The most common cause of plant failure is planting too deep. In most instances, the portion of the plant where the roots meet the trunk, known as the root flare zone, should be located just above existing grade. You will need to inspect the root ball to find the root flare prior to planting. If there is nursery soil over the root flare, scrape it off after planting. Never place any soil or mulch over the root flare. The planting hole should be twice the width of the root ball, preferably wider because the roots will grow better in loose soil. Only excavate as deep as needed. The bottom of the ball should rest on undisturbed soil. Use no less than 50% excavated soil with the amendments recommended at the time of purchase for backfill. Massage and loosen the roots of containerized plants if they are circling the ball. Place the plant into the hole and backfill half way up the ball. If the plant has a wire basket, leave it on. It will eventually deteriorate. Now

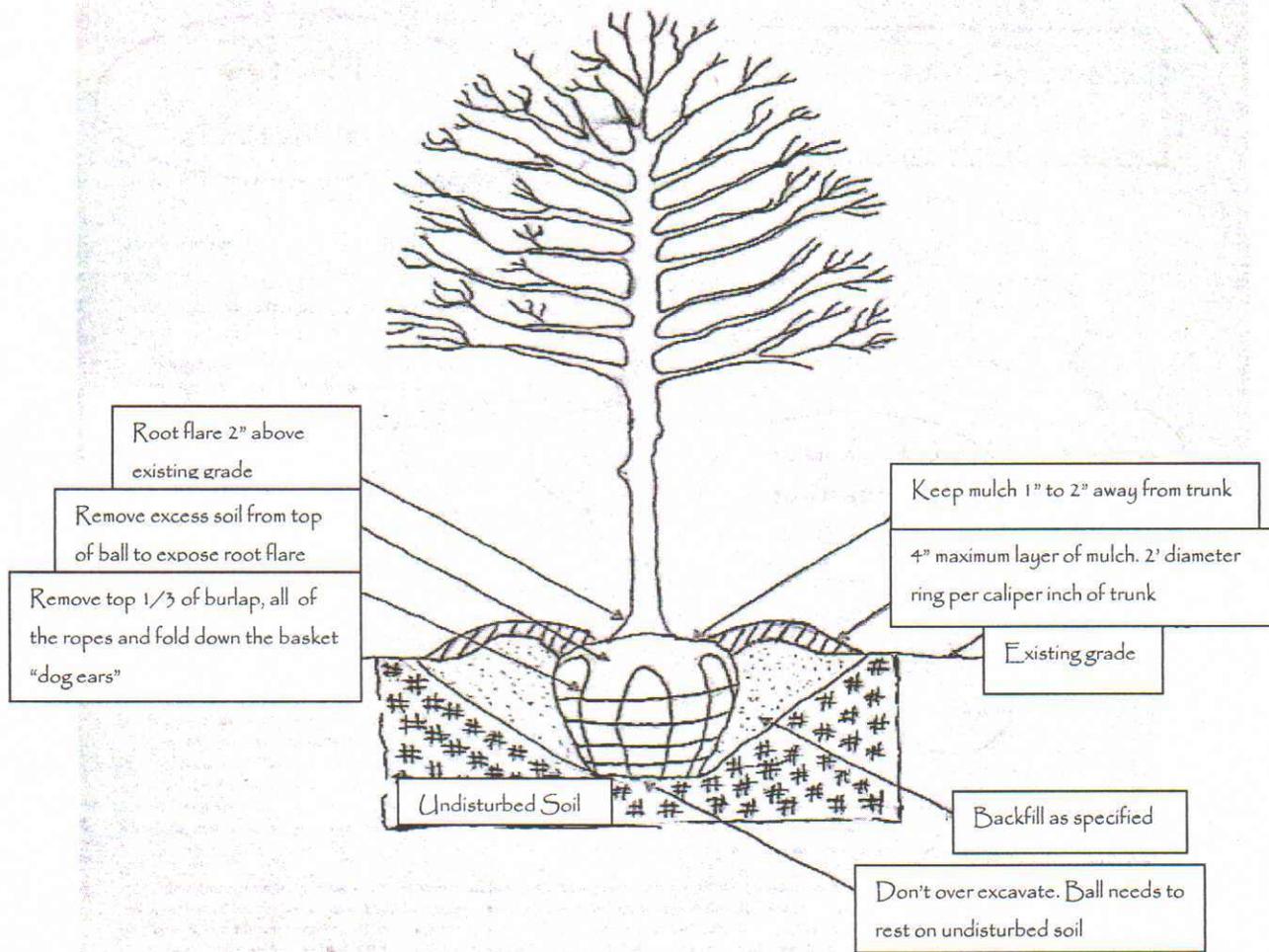
your plant is stable enough to remove all ropes and the top portion of burlap. Fold down the "dog ears" of the wire basket. Carefully scrape away the extra soil on top of the root flare and place into the partially filled hole. Finish backfilling while lightly tamping the soil as you fill. Don't over tamp, keep it loose, you just want to get rid of air pockets. Create a saucer ring of soil just past the perimeter of the excavated hole.

Weed suppression during establishment is essential. Apply a 3 inch layer of mulch at least 2 feet in diameter for each inch of trunk caliper. Maintain this ring during the establishment period. Apply a thinner layer of mulch over the root ball but keep it 1"-2" away from the root flare. This allows rainwater, irrigation and air to easily enter the root ball and keeps the trunk dry. Placing mulch or soil over the flare will result in plant decline and/or death caused by: oxygen starvation, bark rot, stem and root diseases, prevention of hardening off for winter, keeping soil too wet, etc. Make sure you create a mulch saucer not a volcano!

Unlike established plants, which do best with deep, infrequent irrigation, recently planted trees and shrubs establish best with frequent, light irrigation. For spring and summer plantings, provide 2-3 waterings each week during the first few months after planting. Following the initial few months of frequent watering, provide weekly irrigation until plants are fully established. With every watering apply 2-3 gallons of water per inch of the trees diameter or 1-2 gallons of water per gallon pot size, over the root ball only, not on the foliage. Never add water if the root ball is saturated. Water in the morning before the heat of the day and avoid watering in the evening. In all but the driest years, irrigation of spring/summer plantings usually can be discontinued after the native deciduous trees start to show fall color. Irrigation of fall plantings, however, should be continued until the native deciduous trees drop all of their leaves.

If you have specific questions not covered in these instructions, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you and HAPPY PLANTING!!!!

Planting Diagram for Balled and Burlaped Trees and Shrubs



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