The essentials for growing a great tree!

Simply follow these steps for establishing and growing a beautiful healthy tree… every step is important!

- Select the proper species for cold hardiness in our area and match the tree to the site for size and function.
- Make sure the drainage in the landscape is adequate. Trees that are planted with poor drainage or in low areas will suffer (or die) from lack of oxygen.
- Space proper distances for trees as they grow into maturity (tree to tree, driveways, sidewalks, other structures and buildings)
- Proper planting hole preparation. Make sure the root ball is not set too deeply!
- Mulch!!! A three to four inch bed of mulch is essential for establishing a tree. Use natural mulches, (don't use grass clippings) and if a weed barrier is used, do NOT use plastic. When finished placing mulch, make sure it is not against the trunk of the tree.
- Stake the tree only if necessary and remove after one year. If left staked more than one year, make sure to loosen so tree can sway in the wind. Trees that are staked too long do not develop proper trunk taper and are then prone to failure.
- Water the new planting in well when all of the above are complete. Establish a watering plan and make sure to stick with it! If possible use a drip irrigation system. Do not over water new plantings! It is best to keep the area moist but not saturated.
- Inoculate trees with Mycorrhizae with soil stimulant to greatly enhance rooting and reduce transplant shock. (do not fertilize the tree any more the first year). Fertilize after the tree has established using only low salt fertilizers made specifically for trees.

Great looking healthy trees are rarely an accident! Take some time to properly plant your trees and give them the proper aftercare to avoid disappointment. You'll be well on your way to having a beautiful, healthy tree for many years!

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What Are Mycorrhizae?

The word Mycorrhizae literally means "fungus roots" and defines the mutually beneficial relationship between plant roots and specialized soil fungi. Nature has developed this vital relationship over millions of years, and without an adequate amount of Mycorrhizae colonizing your trees roots, they cannot thrive.

Why Do My Trees Need Mycorrhizae?

In an urban or turfed environment, trees can be greatly stressed. Trees planted in man-made environments often suffer from compaction, poor top soil, absence of quality organic matter and competition from turf grass.

You want your trees to grow well, be healthy, thrive and look great! Unless they have the proper foundation this will not be possible.

Trees grown in the nursery are usually lacking in good populations of Mycorrhizae. Introducing Mycorrhizae along with bio stimulants at the time of planting is a great way to get your new trees started out right. Along with the proper pre-planning and aftercare, you can expect to have healthy and beautiful trees for many years!

Established trees can also be inoculated with Mycorrhizae spores to help them begin to develop a healthier root system and build vigor. A healthy tree will better withstand disease, insect attacks and environmental stresses.

How is it applied?

For small trees and shrubs it can be applied by mixing the proper amount with water and doing a soil drench on and around the root ball. Application is also done using professional root feeding equipment using a soil probe and applying under high pressure.

The product we use is one of the very few on the market that is third party tested to insure the viability of spores. Our product also has beneficial bacteria, biostimulants and Horta-Sorb water management gel to insure the proper environment for spores to develop.

Planting A Tree:

The ideal time to plant trees and shrubs is during the dormant season—in autumn after leaf drop or early spring before budding commences. Weather conditions are cool and allow plants to establish roots in the new location before spring rains and summer heat stimulate new top growth. However, containerized trees properly cared for in the nursery or garden centre, and given the appropriate care during transport to prevent damage, can be planted throughout the growing season. In either situation, proper handling during planting is essential to ensure a healthy future for new trees and shrubs. Before you begin planting your tree, be sure you have had all underground utilities located prior to digging.

Whether the tree you are planting is balled and burlapped or is bare root, it is important to understand that its root system has been reduced by 90 to 95 percent of its original size during transplanting. As a result of the trauma caused by the digging process, trees commonly exhibit what is known as transplant shock. Transplant shock is indicated by slow growth and reduced vigor following transplanting. Proper site preparation before and during planting coupled with good follow-up care reduces the amount of time the plant experiences transplant shock and allows the tree to quickly establish in its new location. Carefully follow eight simple steps, and you can significantly reduce the stress placed on the plant at the time of planting.

Dig a shallow, broad planting hole. Make the hole wide, as much as three times the diameter of the root ball but only as deep as the root ball. It is important to make the hole wide because the roots on the newly establishing tree must push through surrounding soil in order to establish. On most planting sites in new developments, the existing soils have been compacted and are unsuitable for healthy root growth. Breaking up the soil in a large area around the tree provides the newly emerging roots room to expand into loose soil to hasten establishment.

Identify the trunk flare. The trunk flare is where the roots spread at the base of the tree. This point should be partially visible after the tree has been planted (see diagram). If the trunk flare is not partially visible, you may have to remove some soil from the top of the root ball. Find it so you can determine how deep the hole needs to be for proper planting.

Place the tree at the proper height. Before placing the tree in the hole, check to see that the hole has been dug to the proper depth—and no more. The majority of the roots on the newly planted tree will develop in the top 12 inches of soil. If the tree is planted too deeply, new roots will have difficulty developing because of a lack of oxygen. It is better to plant the tree a little high, 2 to 3 inches above the base of the trunk flare, than to plant it at or below the original growing level. This planting level will allow for some settling (see diagram). To avoid damage when setting the tree in the hole, always lift the tree by the root ball and never by the trunk.

Be careful not to dig too deeply and have to place soil back in to get the proper depth as this loose dirt will settle and the root ball will settle lower than desired. Place a shovel handle or other straight item across the hole and measure as you go so you will have a good solid foundation to prevent settling. Again, plant the tree so the top of the root ball is 2 or 3 inches above the original grade.

Straighten the tree in the hole. Before you begin backfilling, have someone view the tree from several directions to confirm that the tree is straight. Once you begin backfilling, it is difficult to reposition the tree.

Fill the hole gently but firmly. Fill the hole about one-third full and gently but firmly pack the soil around the base of the root ball. Then, if the tree is balled and burlapped, cut and remove the string and wire from around the trunk and top third of the root ball (see diagram). Be careful not to damage the trunk or roots in the process.

Fill the remainder of the hole, taking care to firmly pack soil to eliminate air pockets that may cause roots to dry out. To avoid this problem, add the soil a few inches at a time and settle with water. Continue this process until the hole is filled and the tree is firmly planted. It is not recommended to apply fertilizer at the time of planting.

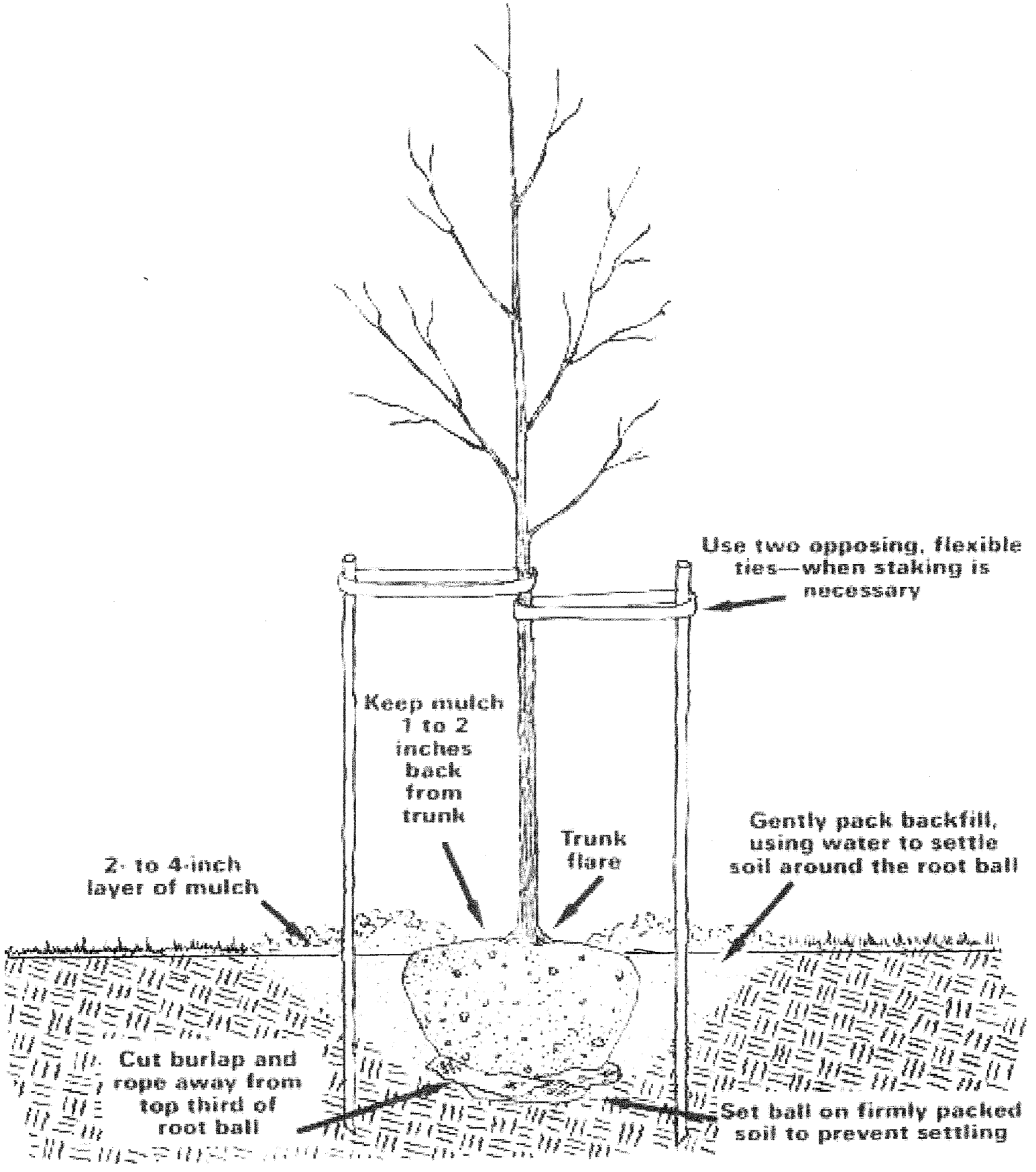
Stake the tree, if necessary. If the tree is grown and dug properly at the nursery, staking for support will not be necessary in most home landscape situations. Studies have shown that trees establish more quickly and develop stronger trunk and root systems if they are not staked at the time of planting. However, protective staking may be required on sites where lawn mower damage, vandalism, or windy conditions are concerns. If staking is necessary for support, there are three methods to choose among: staking, guying, and ball stabilizing. One of the most common methods is staking. With this method, two stakes used in conjunction with a wide, flexible tie material will hold the tree upright, provide flexibility, and minimize injury to the trunk (see diagram). Remove support staking and ties after the first year of growth.

Mulch the base of the tree. Mulch is simply organic matter applied to the area at the base of the tree. It acts as a blanket to hold moisture, it moderates soil temperature extremes (both hot and cold), and it reduces competition from grass and weeds. Some good choices are leaf litter, pine straw, shredded bark, peat moss, or wood chips. A 2- to 4-inch layer is ideal. More than 4 inches may cause a problem with oxygen and moisture levels. When placing mulch, be sure that the actual trunk of the tree is not covered. Doing so may cause decay of the living bark at the base of the tree. A mulch-free area, 1 to 2 inches wide at the base of the tree, is sufficient to avoid moist bark conditions and prevent decay.

Provide follow-up care. Keep the soil moist but not soaked; over-watering causes leaves to turn yellow or fall off. Water trees at least once a week, barring rain, and more frequently during hot weather. When the soil is dry below the surface of the mulch, it is time to water. Continue until mid-fall, tapering off for lower temperatures that require less-frequent watering.

Other follow-up care may include minor pruning of branches damaged during the planting process. Prune sparingly immediately after planting and wait to begin necessary corrective pruning until after a full season of growth in the new location.

After you've completed these eight simple steps, further routine care and favorable weather conditions will ensure that your new tree or shrub will grow and thrive. A valuable asset to any landscape, trees provide a long-lasting source of beauty and enjoyment for people of all ages. When questions arise about the care of your tree, be sure to consult us for professional for assistance.


Use two opposing, flexible ties—when staking is necessary
Keep mulch 1 to 2 inches back from trunk
Trunk flare
Gently pack backfill, using water to settle soil around the root ball
2- to 4-inch layer of mulch
Cut burlap and rope away from top third of root ball
Set ball on firmly packed soil to prevent settling