

## Proper Tree Planting Techniques (B&B)



Don't bury the root collar of your tree



Root collar: The interface region of the tree trunk and root system where the trunk flares up near the soil line.

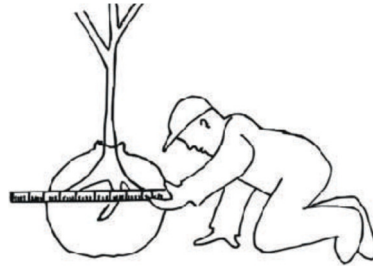


**Step 1:** With a tool (screwdriver, etc.), probe 3 to 4 inches away from the trunk to find the depth of at least two structural roots from the surface of the root ball. Find the average of the two depths that you measured.



**Step 2:** Measure the height of the root ball from the surface of the root ball to the bottom.

**Step 3:** Calculating the depth of the planting hole.  
**The depth of the planting hole will equal Step 2 minus Step 1.**



**Step 4:** Measure the diameter of the root ball.



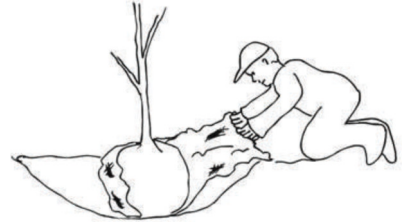
**Step 5:** Dig a saucer-shaped hole three times the width of the root ball diameter to the depth you calculated in Step 3.



**Step 6:** Gently slide the root ball into the center of the hole. Avoid lifting the tree by its trunk.



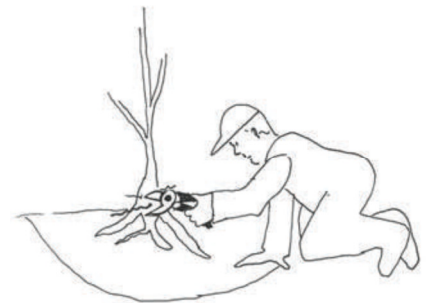
**Step 7:** Cut the wire basket vertically and remove it completely.



**Step 8:** Remove the burlap and twine attached to the tree. Remove any name tags attached to the trunk or branches.



**Step 9:** Remove the soil above the root flare.

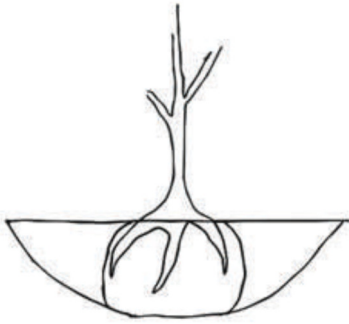


**Step 10:** Prune any encircling roots that are growing on the root flare with a clipper. Also prune any adventitious roots that grow above the root collar.

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## What not to do after your tree is planted

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**Step 11:** Make sure the root collar is at or slightly above (1-2 inches) the surface of the soil.



**Step 14:** Stake the tree using a wide strap attached to two sturdy stakes. Remove a year after planting. Mulch 6 inches away from the trunk with 2 inches of wood chips.



Flowers are pretty...  
but not under your trees!



**Step 12:** Backfill the hole with soil, gently but firmly packing the soil around the base of the root ball. Apply fertilizer if a soil test supports its application for newly planted trees.



Do not pile mulch up like a volcano around your tree



**Step 13:** After the soil has been replaced, thoroughly water the tree, soaking the soil close to the trunk.

**Step 15: Post planting care:** Apply one inch of water to the soil surface near the root ball. This will wet the soil to a depth of 8-10 inches. When the soil is dry below the surface of the mulch, it is time to water. Keep the soil moist but not soaked. Continue watering at least once a week until mid-fall, tapering off for lower temperatures that require less-frequent watering.

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Remove all twine and label  
tags from trunk and branches