



## Planting Instructions

### 1. Handling - Be gentle!

Young trees are delicate, so carry them by the container or the root ball – never the stem. Keep the root ball intact and damp (don't let it freeze!), it provides moisture until stronger roots develop.

### 2. Prepare the hole

Dig a hole that is as deep as and 6 inches wider than the tree's root ball. That loosens the soil to promote better root growth. A hole that is too deep can settle and cause the tree to sink.

<u>Approximate size</u> }	1 gallon hole 14 inches diameter and 7 inches deep
	3 gallon hole 16 inches diameter and 10 inches deep
	5 gallon hole 16 inches diameter and 14 inches deep
	7 gallon hole 19 inches diameter and 13 inches deep
	15 gallon hole 23 inches in diameter and 17 inches deep
	18 gallon hole 19 inches in diameter and 18 inches deep

### 3. Removing from the container

Tap gently around the container, then slip it off the root ball, laying the tree on its side if necessary. Never pull the tree out by the stem. If any roots have spiraled together outside the root ball, slice down the sides of the root ball with a sharp knife. Leave all soil on the root ball and transfer into the planting hole. There is a symbiotic relationship between fungus and roots that is vital for plant survival. Also, be sure to cut the bottom ½ inch off the bottom of the root ball. This will remove dead root ends and encourage new growth.

### 4. Planting the tree

Set the tree upright in the hole. The top of the root ball should be at or slightly above the surrounding ground line. The majority of the roots on a newly planted tree will develop in the top 12 inches of the soil. If the tree is planted too deep, new roots will have difficulty developing due to lack of oxygen. You don't need to add anything to the soil, but if your soil is poor, backfill around the root ball with high-quality topsoil. Firmly fill soil to cover the root ball, then water the tree to settle the soil and eliminate air pockets.

### 5. Watering

When water is applied, add a sufficient amount to soak the root ball and backfill soil to the depth of the roots. Be careful not to over water! More plants suffer death by drowning especially in soils of heavy clay content than neglect! It is best to water thoroughly and deeply between longer intervals of time than to provide more frequent, shallow watering. Keep the soil moist, but not soaking wet.

(more on reverse side of page!) ➡

## 6. Help it grow

Mulch around the tree is very beneficial to reduce weeds and provide retention of water in soil. Composted bark chips or composted leaves are easy to use and are commonly available. Keep mulch 2 inches away from trunk to keep your tree healthy. Two to three inches is an adequate depth for the mulch.

Stake the tree *if* it begins to lean or is affected by strong winds until the new root growth can support it on its own - may take a year or so.

Fertilizer- Newly planted trees and shrubs generally require only a small amount of fertilizer at planting time. Damage can occur if too much is used in the planting process by causing chemical burns to tender root tissue. A recommended program would be to apply 2 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet in the spring before growth begins, or just as the buds begin swelling, and 2 more pounds per 1000 square feet in the fall about the time of leaf drop. Apply fertilizers in the area from the tree trunk to just beyond the drip line of the branches.

Pruning can prevent a plant from overgrowing its space in the landscape and eliminate the need for drastic cutting of a crowded, overgrown plant. It can also serve to reduce leaf area on newly planted trees and shrubs, thus reducing transplant stress. When pruning do not cut flush with the tree trunk - instead look for a natural narrowing area along branch just beyond where the branch is attached on the trunk. The cut will heal much better at this point.

Thank you for your order!

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