

# CONTAINERIZED OR BALLED & BURLAPPED TREE PLANTING DETAIL

## THE HOLE:

Dig a hole which is at least twice the diameter of the rootball. Loosen soil 3" deep on the bottom of the hole for improved drainage. (Note: for heavy clay soils, digging a hole 3" deeper and putting a 2" layer of clean gravel, will improve drainage. Planting trees, especially evergreens, 2"-3" above grade also helps improve drainage and overall tree survival). For best root development, enlarge the planting area by removing existing turf, then spading or tilling soil in a wide ring.

## TREE CARE:

Be sure to handle the tree by the rootball, not the trunk. Carefully cut twine wrapped around the stem at the top of the rootball. Remove burlap from the top of the rootball to prevent wicking of moisture from the soil. Remove completely any plastic, burlap or container. On container grown material, be sure to take a knife and cut into the rootball at least two places, up and down 1" - 2" deep. This will encourage better root development.

## BACKFILL:

Backfill the hole with a mixture consisting of 2/3 loosened existing soil and 1/3 organic material (eg. peat moss, composted manure) to improve soil quality.

## WATER:

Water newly planted trees thoroughly. It is important to keep soil moist but not wet, until roots become established.

## MULCH:

Mulch an area around the tree in proportion with the size of the tree. Mulch should be 3" thick. Leave a small gap near the trunk. Mulching will help hold in moisture, help control weeds and will provide protection to the trunk from mowers and weedeaters.

## PRUNING:

Remove only broken or badly deformed branches. Begin a regular pruning program the second or third year after planting.

The following procedures are optional:

## STAKES:

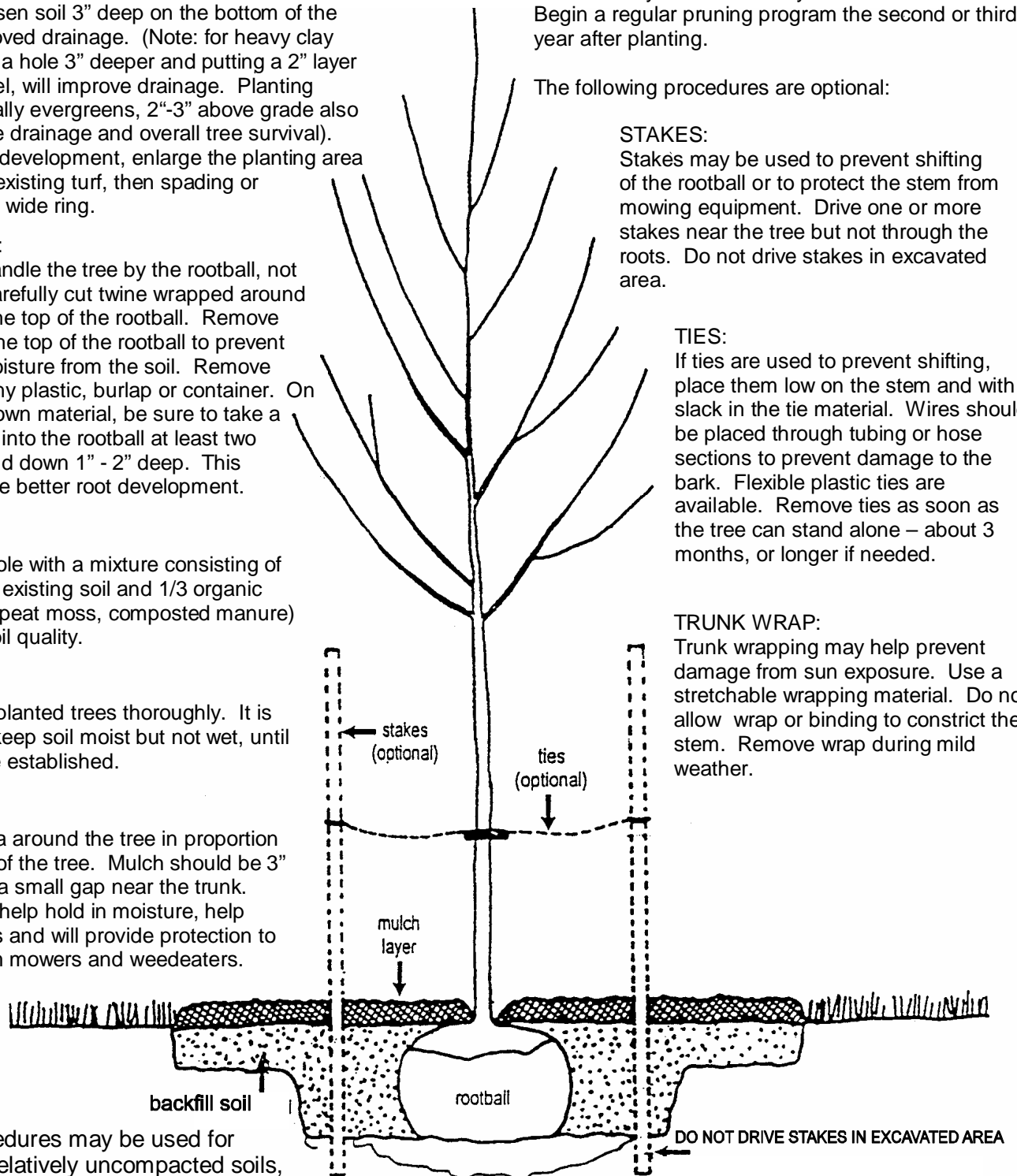
Stakes may be used to prevent shifting of the rootball or to protect the stem from mowing equipment. Drive one or more stakes near the tree but not through the roots. Do not drive stakes in excavated area.

## TIES:

If ties are used to prevent shifting, place them low on the stem and with slack in the tie material. Wires should be placed through tubing or hose sections to prevent damage to the bark. Flexible plastic ties are available. Remove ties as soon as the tree can stand alone – about 3 months, or longer if needed.

## TRUNK WRAP:

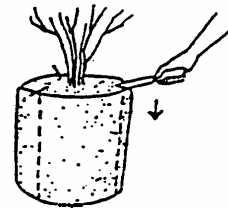
Trunk wrapping may help prevent damage from sun exposure. Use a stretchable wrapping material. Do not allow wrap or binding to constrict the stem. Remove wrap during mild weather.



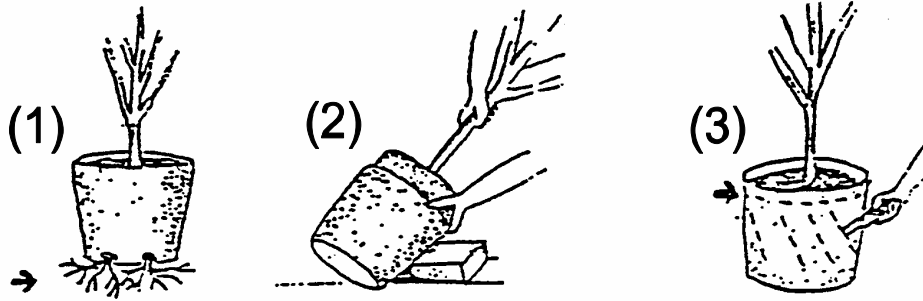
These procedures may be used for planting in relatively uncompacted soils, or where water will percolate through the topsoil layer.

# SMALL TREE OR SHRUB PLANTING DETAIL

When planting POTTED trees, evergreens, and shrubs, always take a sharp knife and cut into the rootball, up and down, 1" to 2" deep, in 3 places. This will slow the growth rate down, and stimulate the plant to develop new feeder roots, and help it get established much faster.

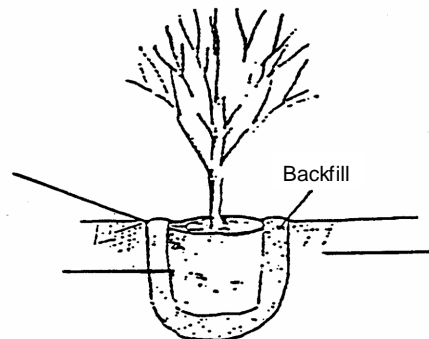


Handle plants carefully. Hold or carry by the container or rootball, not the plant. Always dig the hole before removing the plant from the container.



1. Trim away any roots protruding through drainage holes to facilitate removal of plant.
2. Plastic containers are generally smooth on the inside. Tilt the container on its side and gently slide it off the root ball, tapping lightly to loosen as needed.
3. Papier-mâché' pots should be left intact. The pot rim should be cut off level with the soil and long slits cut into the sides of the pot to promote decomposition.

4. Dig a hole 50% larger and deeper than the size of the rootball. Save the soil you remove from the hole.
5. Loosen packed soil at the bottom of the hole. Mix all soil removed with 1/3 peat or compost manure for backfill.



6. Set the plant into the hole on the backfill, planting at the same depth as it was grown in the container.
7. Continue to backfill around the rootball until level with existing soil. Tamp lightly and water thoroughly.