



Tree and Shrub Planting Guide

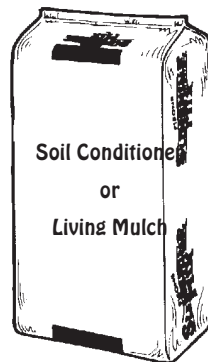
Planting a tree or shrub is easy! At Rainbow Gardens, we make it even easier with our simple-to-follow Tree and Shrub Planting & Care Guide. Remember to carry your trees and shrubs home by the container or root ball (never the trunk) to avoid damage to the root ball! We recommend the following steps to ensure success:



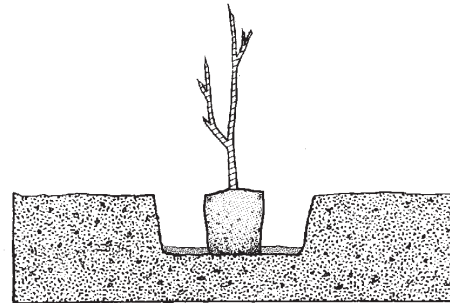
1: Dig the hole twice as wide as the root ball (container) and as deep as the height of the root ball. Put the native soil in a wheelbarrow or on top of a piece of plastic adjacent to the hole. Throw away the caliche and rock. If a lot of rock is encountered consider building a large raised bed.



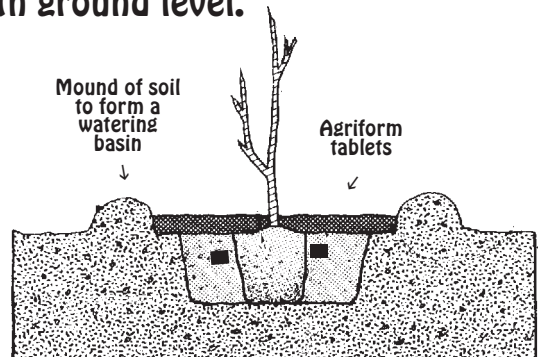
2/3 soil from hole



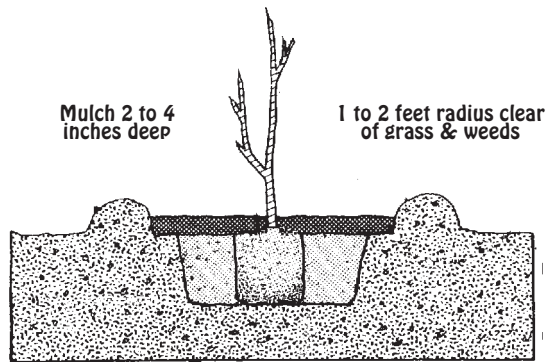
2: Mix 2/3 soil from the hole with 1/3 soil conditioner or living mulch. Gently tap the container and slide out the root ball, being careful not to break up the root system. If the root ball will not come out easily, cut the pot with a knife or scissors.



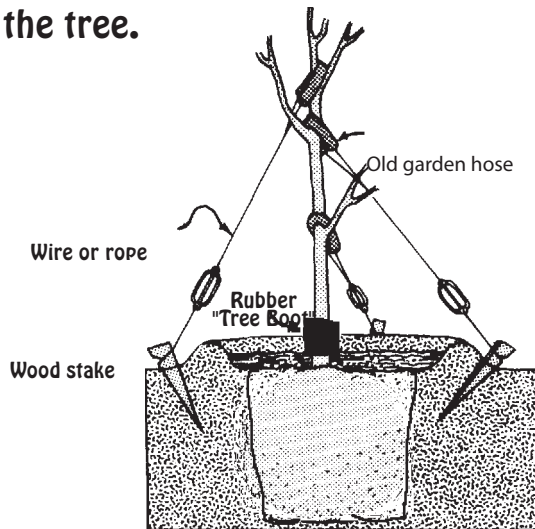
3. Carefully set the tree or shrub in the hole, holding on to the root ball. Make sure trunk is perpendicular to ground. Top of root ball should be even with ground level.



4: Fill in around the sides of the root ball with the soil mixture, firming the soil as you fill. Build a 4 inch tall berm around the edge of the planting hole for efficient watering. Push 3-5 Agriform tablets around the perimeter of the root ball. Water the tree/shrub thoroughly. Adding root stimulator afterwards will aid in root hair development.



5. Fill the berm with 4 inches of shredded mulch to conserve water and eliminate weed/grass competition. Do not pile mulch adjacent to the tree trunk. Wet mulch touching the tree's bark can cause the bark to rot and may injure or kill the tree.



6. Prevent *weed eater* damage around base of the tree/shrub by keeping grass cleared away from the trunk or by using a rubber "tree boot". If needed, loosely stake new trees for 6-12 months to prevent damage from high winds. Shrubs should not need staking. Stake kits are available or you can make your own.

6. cont: Remove stakes after one year. In very hot locations, wrapping the trunk with "tree wrap" will prevent scalding and killing of the cambium layer on the South side of the trunk. Your tree or shrub does not need to be fertilized the first 6 months if Agriform tablets are used. Fertilize your trees and shrubs in early spring and early fall with a tree/shrub fertilizer. Trees in the legume family, like Mt. Laurels, Mesquites and acacias need minimal fertilizer after planting.

7: The secret to watering is to water *thoroughly* each time. Bring a hose to the berm and let it trickle soak very slowly for 30 minutes. The idea is to deep water, encouraging roots to grow deeper. Do not water again until the root ball is fairly dry. It is better to slightly underwater than to overwater. Start off with two deep soakings a week when the weather is warm or hot. Increase the number of days between deep soakings as the tree becomes rooted in. "Wean" your trees/shrubs off of depending on you for water as opposed to natural rainfall. The advantage to fall planting is that very little supplemental watering is needed during the fall, winter, and early spring. Your tree or shrub should be well rooted by summer heat time.



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