

GENERAL PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Plant as soon as possible after delivery or transport. If planting is going to be delayed, store your plants in a cool, shaded area and water as required to keep the roots & soil moist.

PREPARE THE PLANTING SITE

- When digging the hole for your new shrub or tree, it is important to ensure that the excavated width is at least one and a half times the width of the pot or root ball.
- The depth of the hole should not exceed the existing height of the root ball; when placed in the hole, the root collar (the flare in the trunk at the junction of roots and trunk) should be at, or slightly above the existing grade.
- In areas of clay soil or where drainage may be poor, the planting hole should be shallower, wider, and amended to improve drainage. Ask our experts for advice on soil amendments and additions.



PREPARING THE SOIL

- It is important to incorporate a quality soil product into the existing soil of the planting location. Loosen and roughen the edges and bottom of the newly dug hole and combine well with new soil.
- Backfill the planting hole with a combination of existing and new soil to encourage root development and growth beyond the root ball.

PLANTS IN PLASTIC POTS

- Gently remove the container by sliding it off. It is important to keep the root ball intact, while gently teasing or loosening the roots to encourage their reach.
- The top level of soil within the pot should remain the finished height when planted. i.e soil can be added to the bottom and sides of planting hole, but very little should be added to the surface.
- Backfill the remainder of the hole and tamp down, then water to eliminate air pockets and assist with soil settlement.

PLANTS IN FIBRE POTS

- There are several thoughts around the planting of plants that come in a fibre pot. In all methods, it is most important to keep the root ball intact. It is our preference to do the following:
 - Placing the plant in its fibre pot on its side, gently cut away the bottom of the pot.
 - Place the plant and pot into the hole and backfill two thirds of the way around and two thirds up the height of the pot.
 - Cut a vertical slit, top to bottom in the exposed side of the fibre pot.
 - Gently slide the pot up and off of the root ball. Loosen or tease any roots that seem tightly bound.
 - Backfill the remainder of the hole and tamp down, then water to eliminate air pockets and assist with soil settlement.

BALLED & BURLAPPED SHRUBS OR TREES

- Place the plant into its hole at the appropriate depth.
- Backfill two thirds of the height in order to keep the root ball intact.
- Gently untie the string and pull away the top portion of burlap.
- The excess burlap and string can be removed or left to decay in the hole.
- Backfill the remainder of the hole and tamp down, then water to eliminate air pockets and assist with soil settlement.

WIRE BASKET TREES

- Ensure that the planting depth is established and confirmed prior to placing the wire basket into the hole.
- Backfill two thirds of the way up the root ball.
- Gently cut the strings and pull away the burlap from the top of the root ball. Excess burlap can be cut and removed from the top.
- The wire of the basket can be pulled back from the top, but does remain in the ground along with the burlap.
- Complete backfilling the hole, tamp down the soil and water to eliminate air pocket and assist with settlement.

STAKING

Anchor any trees on the prevailing wind side. Connon Nurseries carries stakes and staking equipment for trees of all sizes.



WATERING

As soon as your tree is planted, watering should begin.

How to water: Good watering practice includes a slow, long, deep and infrequent watering. There are multiple ways to deep root water a tree, and all have the desired effect – encouraging the roots to grow deep into the soil. A slow soak allows the water to deeply surround the root ball. As the soil dries from the top downward, the roots begin to follow, seeking more moisture. Roots require oxygen as well water, thus it is important to ensure proper drainage reducing the likelihood of standing water surrounding the roots.

When to water: Before watering, always gauge the level of moisture in the first several inches of soil. If the soil is moist, there is no need to water. Feeling the soil is the best indication of when to water as requirements change based on location and environmental factors. i.e soil type, season, precipitation.

*It is important for trees and shrubs to enter the winter with adequate moisture within the root zone. Watering into late November/early December until freeze-up may be necessary depending on precipitation received.