



Planting your Balled & Burlapped Tree (B&B Tree)

Dig your planting hole twice as wide or wider than the root ball. The depth of your hole should be no more than the height of the ball or 1" less. It is very important that the hole is not too deep. Triple check the depth....once it goes in the hole, it is very hard to get it back out to the correct the hole depth. One of the big mistakes that one can make when planting a tree is to plant it too deep.

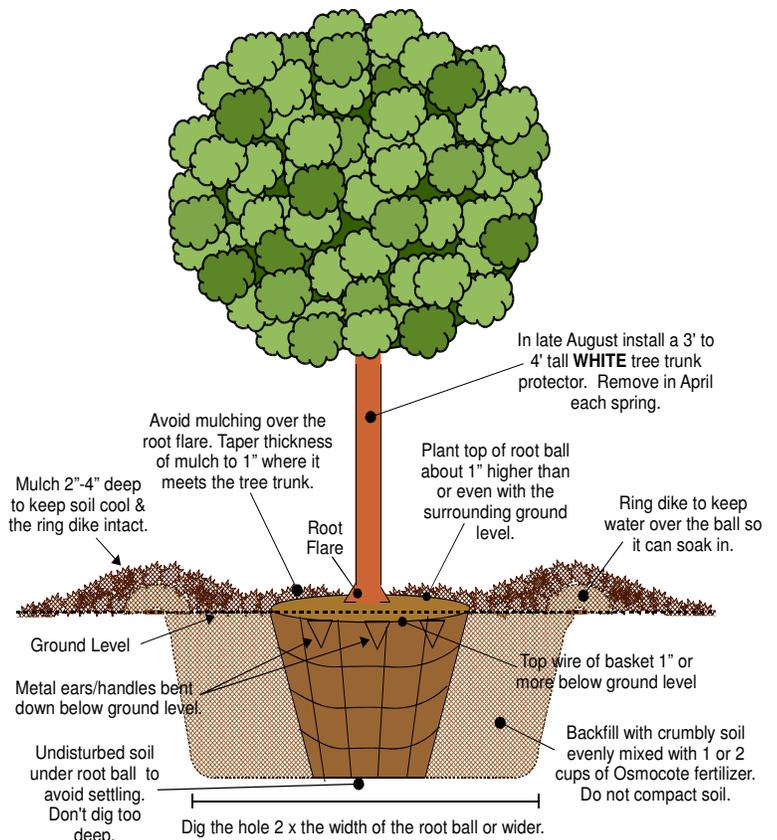
Once the planting hole has been properly prepared gently roll and guide the root ball into the hole. As the tree rolls in be careful it does not swing back and hit you. The top of the root ball should be 1" above or even with ground level. Straighten the tree using just enough soil back fill to hold it in place.

With your tree in the correct position you will cut off any twine (string) that is holding the basket to the trunk of the tree. You will notice 4 to 5 "ears" on the wire basket. These ears should be folded all the way down – until below ground level allowing you access to the burlap covering the top of the root ball. Use a utility knife to cut off all the burlap and any remaining twine from the "shoulder" of the root ball up to and around the tree trunk. You may remove some of the wire basket with a bolt cutter, prior to backfilling. This step can be omitted as long as the "ears" of the wire basket are folded down below ground level. If you do remove part of the wire basket, do so only after the tree is standing nice and straight in the planting hole. Avoid moving the tree after the wire basket has been removed as it could disturb and injure important tree roots.

Before backfilling, make sure that the tree is straight. The top wire of the basket should be below ground level and the top of the root ball about one inch above ground level. Backfill with crumbly soil **evenly** mixed with 1 to 2 cups of Osmocote timed release fertilizer for better growth. **Gently** firm the soil with **light** foot pressure.

After backfilling make a 3" watering ring dike with soil around the hole to help hold water over the root system so it can soak in rather than run off. It is a good idea to leave this watering ring dike in place for the first year of root establishment as you will be carefully applying measured amounts of water inside the ring. Mulch 2"-4" deep to keep soil cool and the ring dike intact. Avoid mulching over the root flare. Taper thickness of mulch to 1" where it meets the tree trunk.

Applying 5-6 gallons of water two times per week constitutes a thorough watering. Water this way for the first full year, taking a break over winter. If you have sandy soil, use a bit more water. If you have heavy, sticky soil, use a bit less. Rainfall is often inadequate as an inch of rain usually only soaks in about 6". **DO NOT leave a hose trickling at the base of the newly planted tree. You won't know how much water your tree received. This will void the tree warranty. The most common cause of death in new trees is excessive watering.** See our blue watering chart for accurate watering instructions.



View our online planting video for balled and burlapped trees at knechts.net