

McIntire's Tree Planting Guide

- » An inorganic root stimulator, such as Fertilome's, is useful at planting.
- » An organic product such as McIntire's 'Trifecta' that is a combination of horticultural molasses, liquid seaweed and fish emulsion is useful during the first growing season, then spring and fall thereafter.
- » New plantings require monitoring for a couple of months to be sure they get a good start. New plants have higher water requirements than established plants, yet we do not want to over water them.

» Existing root ball should be 1"-2" above the surrounding ground level to allow water to drain away. The crown is part of the trunk and should be exposed. Planting too deeply, (with soil up on the trunk) can kill the plant by rotting the bark and/or preventing water to the root zone.



» Keep mulch 4" away from trunk; wet mulch can rot the bark of the tree or shrub.

» No more than 1"-2" of mulch. Mulch applied too deeply may prevent irrigation from reaching soil.
» Tamping the back fill compacts the soil, taking too much air from the soil, and this may damage the roots. Settle the back fill soil by watering only.

» Hole should be no deeper than the existing root ball to prevent settling.

» If there are a lot of roots growing around the outer edge of the root ball, making 3 to 4 shallow cuts with a knife is enough to get the roots to spread.

» Do not rip the root ball apart. This destroys the tiny feeder roots and the plant may not be able to absorb the water and nutrients it requires. This will stunt the plant and void your warranty.

» Dig hole 2 to 3 times the width of the root ball. The roots will grow much more readily into loose, aerated soil.

» Be sure that your hole drains. If it does not, your plant may root rot. It is recommended to dig the hole in advance, fill it with water, and if it has not drained within 24 hours the hole does not have adequate drainage.

» When digging the hole, sloped, rough sides help roots penetrate and expand into surrounding ground.

» We recommend mixing up to 1/3 Triple Power Compost or Dillo Dirt with back fill. In our area the soil lacks organic materials and tends to compact. Adding compost adds nutrients and beneficial microorganisms to soil for healthy growth.