

## PLANT TREES AND SHRUBS PROPERLY

Fall is an excellent time to plant trees and shrubs for shade and beauty. However, improper planting may result in injury which could weaken or even kill the plant.

Transplanting is most successful when the tree or shrub is fully dormant, but when the ground is not frozen. Therefore, fall and early spring are ideal times. Planting a tree in full leaf is hazardous because too much water is lost from the leaves through evaporation. However, balled and burlapped (B & B) evergreens may be planted as late as June and as early as September.

Before planting the tree or shrubs make sure the planting hole is wide and deep enough. For B & B plants, allow an extra foot of space on either side, depending on the size of the plant.

Dig the hole 6" deeper than the ball or root system, then backfill with topsoil to the proper elevation. Always plant at the same level the tree or shrub was growing previously. Planting too deeply may cause root suffocation and rotting of the bark covered by soil. If planted too shallowly, the roots will dry out says Karen Jacobson, U. of I. Extension Horticulturist.

For bare-rooted plants, mound the backfill in the center of the hole and place the plant on the mound, spreading its roots out evenly. On container-grown stock, cut the sides and split the bottom of the root ball to prevent girdling roots. This occurs when the roots continue to grow in a circle, as if still enclosed in the container. On B & B plants, remove any plastic twine or other non-degradable materials. It is not necessary to remove the burlap, but cutting it open will allow faster root penetration.

After setting the plant in position, fill the hole with good loamy soil. Tamp it firmly around the roots as you fill in, and water thoroughly to settle the soil and remove air pockets.

Deciduous trees and shrubs should be pruned after planting to maintain the proper root-shoot ratio. Digging the plant from the nursery often results in root injury and root loss, so the above ground part may be too large for the reduced root system to support. Prune out weak and interfering branches, removing them at a crotch angle to maintain the plant's natural shape.

Protect the trunks of newly planted trees from sunscald, dessication, and borer attack by wrapping them with special tree-wrap paper. Staking is necessary to hold the tree in position and prevent excessive swaying in the wind. Use 2 or 3 wood or metal stakes to which heavy galvanized wire has been fastened. Run the wire through a small piece of rubber tubing to avoid injury to the trunk.

Such bracing is usually required during the first year or two. Check the wire periodically to be sure it is not cutting into the bark and girdling the trunk.

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MAN IN TRUE PERSPECTIVE...The entire earths history put into 1 year would read like the following: The 1st 8 months-no life. Next 3 months-most primitive creatures. Middle December-first mammals. Man shows up at 11:45 PM on December 31. All of man's written history would occupy the final 60 seconds before midnight.

GOOD MORNING

A bore is a fellow who lights up a room  
when he leaves.  
— Parts Pups—