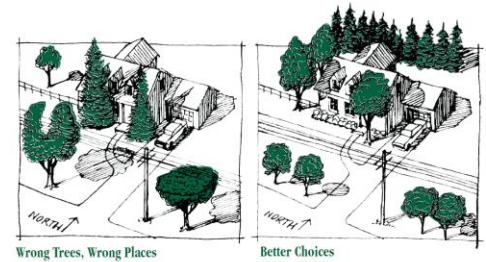


# TREE AND SHRUB: GOOD LANDSCAPING PRACTICES

Before planting consideration should be given at minimum to the following

- species selection
- intended purpose such as shade, privacy, windbreak, or aesthetics
- amount of sun required and soil conditions
- hardiness zone
- available space including height and spread of the tree mature height, space for roots and branches, and Tree Protection Zone (area around the trunk of a tree in which construction activity shall be restricted)

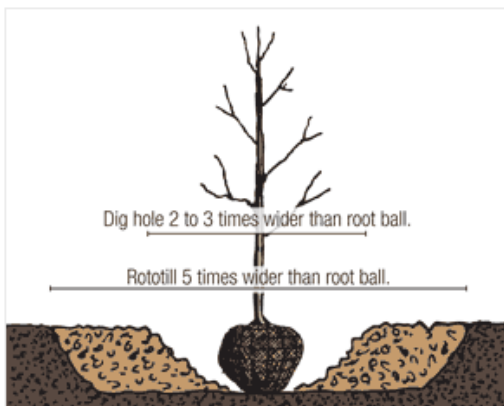


This information is available for more than 200 trees and woody shrubs and can be found on the Arbor Day Foundations website at <https://www.arborday.org/trees/treeGuide/>

After confirming the above, you're ready to plant!

## BALLED AND BURLAPPED TREES

Good tree care starts with a healthy tree. Balled and burlapped trees should have a root ball that is firm to the touch (especially near the trunk) and adequate for the trees size.



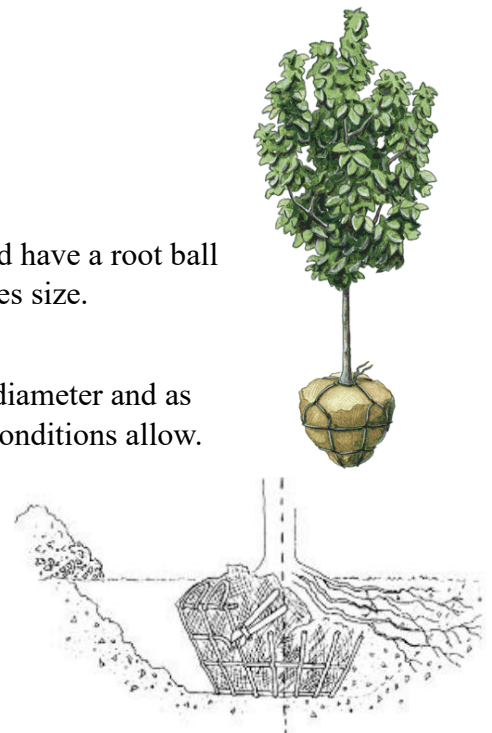
Dig a saucer shaped hole 3x the diameter and as deep as the root ball where site conditions allow.

Measure to ensure the root collar (where the roots attach to the trunk) will be at or slightly above ground level. Make sure the sides of the hole slope, however, do not disturb the soil at the bottom. Set the tree in the center of the hole. When

positioning the tree, support it with the root ball. Never move the tree by the trunk alone. Confirm your hole is the proper depth by evaluating the root collar location. If the hole is too deep, compact some soil at the bottom.

Once the tree is in the hole, cut vertically up the side of the wire basket and remove all the wire. Remove all the twine and rope from the ball, including the nails that hold the burlap together. Remove all the burlap. Clear any debris away from the root collar, including any clay or compacted dirt. Following these steps is critical as these materials interfere with the roots, wick moisture away and never decompose.

Make sure your tree is straight as you firmly pack the native soil around the root ball, making sure there aren't any air pockets. Keep filling until the soil is just below the root collar. In some instances, amended soil may need to be used. In these cases, a maximum of 1/3 amended soil mix is allowed. Stake your tree on at least 2 sides for the first year following planting.



Create a water-holding basin around the tree and give the tree a good watering. After the water has soaked in, spread protective mulch 2-4 inches deep covering the entire area of backfilled soil, keeping the mulch 4 inches away from the trunk. The soil and mulch around your trees should be kept moist but not soggy. During dry weather, generously water the tree every 7 to 10 days during the first year. Water slowly at the dripline.

## CONTAINERED TREES

Trees in containers should not have large, circling roots. Pruned roots should be cut cleanly with none wider than a finger. Soil and roots should be joined tightly.

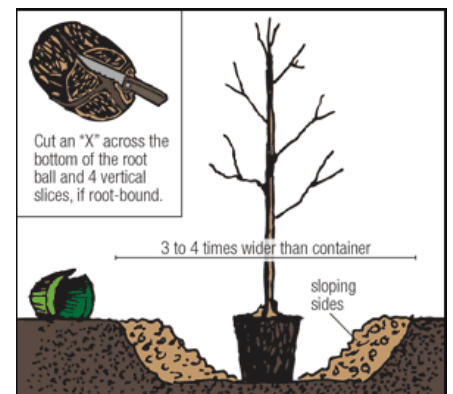


the root collar.

Dig a hole 3 to 4 times wider than the container. The hole should have sloping sides like a saucer to allow for proper root growth. Carefully remove the tree from the container keeping the soil around the roots intact. It helps to tap the outside of the container to loosen the edge. Carefully slide the tree from the container. Don't yank the tree out of the container as this can separate the roots from the tree.

Sometimes containerized trees become root-bound or the roots look like they're about to circle the root ball. If your tree is like this, make a surface cut no deeper than 1/4 inch in the shape of an X across the bottom of the root ball and four vertical surface slices (no deeper than 1/4 inch) along the sides of the root ball with a sharp knife.

Set the tree in the middle of the hole. Avoid planting the tree too deep. If the root collar sits below the top of the hole, compact some soil under the tree so that the root flare at the base of the trunk is slightly above ground level. Using some soil, secure the tree in a straight position, then fill and firmly pack the hole with the original soil, making sure there aren't any air pockets. Keep backfilling until the soil is just below



Create a water-holding basin around the hole and give the tree a good watering. After the water has soaked in, spread protective mulch 2-4 inches deep in a 3-foot diameter area around the base of the tree, but not touching the trunk. The soil and mulch around your trees should be kept moist but not soggy. During dry weather, generously water the tree every 7 to 10 days during the first year. Water slowly at the dripline.

For more information, and helpful tips regarding Good Landscaping Practices visit  
The Arbor Day Foundation at <https://www.arborday.org/trees/tips/>.

