

Planting Trees & Shrubs

A Garden Guide



1. SITE: Site your plant as recommended on tag (sun, part sun, shade). Note mature size and leave ample room for plant growth. Do not plant under roof eaves as your plant will not receive adequate moisture.

2. DIG HOLE: Dig hole at least 2 to 3 times as wide and not quite as deep as the root ball of the plant. REMEMBER - WIDE and SHALLOW. (Fig. 1)

3. CHECK DRAINAGE: To determine drainage, fill hole with water. If water has not soaked out in 15 minutes, choose another site or follow instructions listed below for planting.

***See special instructions about Azaleas and Rhododendron*

****FOR AZALEAS, RHODODENDRON, BLUEBERRIES, PIERIS, MOUNTAIN LAUREL, DOGWOOD, LEUCOTHOE, WHITE PINE, OR FOR ANY PLANT IN AREAS WHERE SOIL DOES NOT DRAIN WELL: Plant with root ball at least 1/4 out of ground, mounding amended soil up around the sides of the root ball.**

4. AMEND YOUR BACKFILL: MIX TOGETHER: 1/3 to 1/2 soil amendments (like compost, soil conditioner or Lawn & Garden Mix) with 2/3 to 1/2 of existing native soil dug from hole. Mix in the Espoma Plant-tone® fertilizer received at time of plant purchase and refill hole with soil mix. Most Plants should be even with or slightly above the surrounding soil (never below). See special instructions for Azaleas/Rhododendrons above.

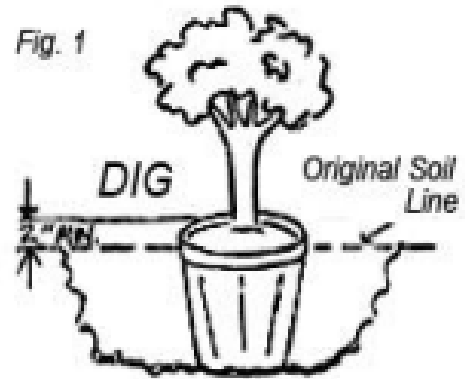
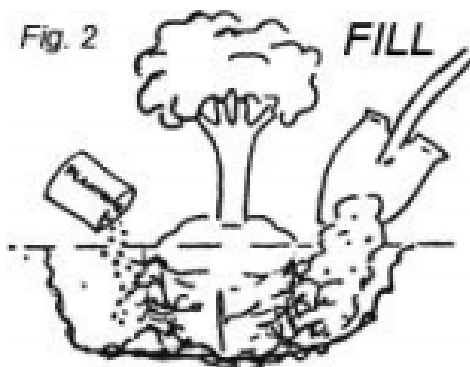


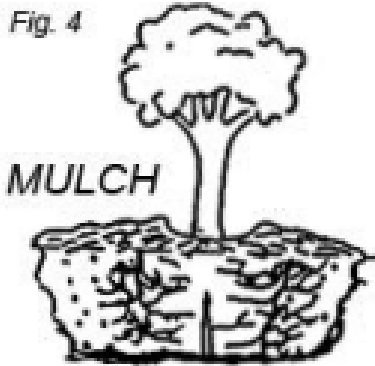
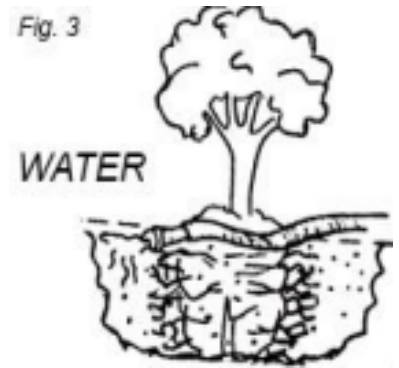
Fig. 2



5. CONTAINER-RAISED PLANTS: Water the plant in the container before removing from the container. Loosen the root ball after removing from the container by gently pulling or cutting roots apart. Don't be afraid to do this - the roots will begin to grow better if loosened.

6. BALLED AND BURLAPPED PLANTS: Place plant in prepared hole, cut string, and then tuck burlap below soil level.

7. WATER: Water newly-planted Tree/Shrub thoroughly and if settling occurs, add more soil if needed and water again. (Fig 3)



8. MULCH: The final position of the *root ball* should be 2-3" above the existing soil line. Mulch with 2-3" of mulch and keep mulch away from the trunk of the plant. (Fig. 4) Bring additional soil up to the edge of the raised root ball.

POST-PLANTING CARE & WATERING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Using your common sense, trees and shrubs may need to be watered as much as twice a week for the first year. It takes 1-3 years for a plant to become established. Check before watering. If the ground is swampy, recheck in a couple of days.
- It is important that newly planted trees and shrubs receive ample moisture until established. Check for moisture by feeling soil near the plant 3 or 4 times a week. Do not let root balls become dry. Use a soaker hose or a hose end on a slow trickle, making sure the soil in the root ball of each plant is soaked to a depth of 3-4". This needs to be the soil depth and not the depth of the mulch. Water is important in the wintertime, too.

When to fertilize: After the first growing season, we recommend a feeding of the appropriate Espoma® fertilizer.

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