

Installing the Plants

1. Planting Hole Preparation

- Dig a hole no deeper than the root mass, but at least twice as wide.
- Build a soil mound in the middle of the hole to help spread the roots evenly.
- Remove roots, weeds, large rocks, and other debris from the planting hole.
- Do not add gravel, fertilizers, organic matter, or other amendments to the planting hole.
- Do not loosen or otherwise disturb the soil at the bottom of the hole.

2. Plant Installation

- Fall planting is generally best in mild climates; spring plantings require more irrigation.
- Remove existing soil from the roots to prevent soil interface problems.
- Remove all foreign materials – burlap, plastic, tags, etc.
- Orient the plant so the shoot-root interface is at or slightly above the soil surface.
- Prune out dead, damaged, or diseased roots; excessively long roots may be shortened.
- Prune out damaged, diseased or dead material. Do not top prune.
- Place the plant atop the soil mound and spread the roots out evenly.
- Backfill with unamended native soil.
- Water the plant well to help settle the soil; if holes appear, fill with native soil.
- Build a soil berm around the planting hole to increase water retention.
- Add a thick layer of well-drained organic mulch like wood chips but keep away from trunks.
- Stake only if necessary; stakes should be loose and low (bottom 1/3 of plant) and removed after one growing season.
- Fertilize with fish meal or ammonium sulfate. Do not use phosphate-containing fertilizers.
- If needed, use tree shelters or other barriers to keep out herbivores.

3. After Care

- Water new transplants during the first 1-2 dry seasons to help them establish.
- Maintain a mulch layer ≈ 3-4 inches thick.
- Keep the root zone free of turf and weeds to reduce resource competition.