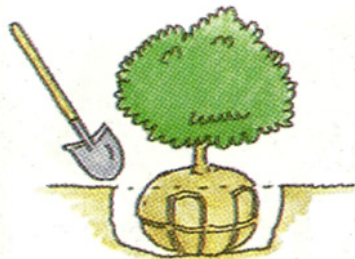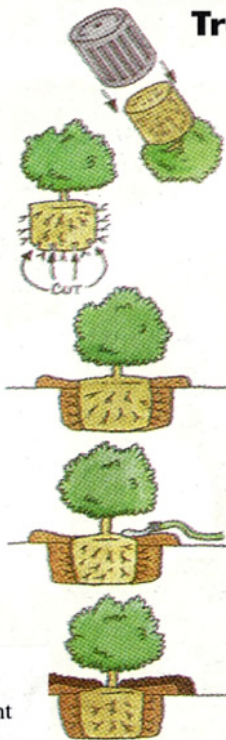# Step 1
Soil Preparation

Dig hole **twice as wide** and **only as deep as** the root ball. Prepare soil by mixing **2/3 soil**, with **1/3 peat moss** and 1 cup of **superphosphate**. (If peat moss is not available, humus or composted manure may be substituted.)

When using Peat Moss to mix with existing soil we recommend using Plant Starter, which includes a starter fertilizer, when watering.

When using Bumper Crop to mix with existing soil we recommend using Root Master when watering. The Bumper Crop has organic fertilizers and the Root Master the best rooting hormone.

Step 2a
Container Grown
Trees & Shrubs

Water container plants several hours before planting.

Remove plant from container.

Because the plant was grown in a container, its roots have been restricted by the shape of the container. Loosen the roots all the way around, even on the bottom. If the root system is too tight to loosen with your fingers, cut through the roots slightly with a knife or pruning sheers. Make three or four 1-inch deep cuts. Gently pull apart. This will allow for the roots to move more easily into the amended soil.

Center plant in hole 1 to 3 inches above grade. Keep roots spread out.

Backfill with soil mix and pack firmly. Make a saucer of soil around the plant at outside of root ball.

Apply a 2-inch layer of mulch, keeping an open space of 3 inches around the trunk or base of the plant to allow for air circulation.
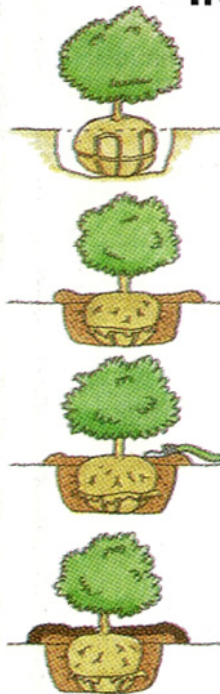
Water thoroughly by slowly soaking the root ball and surrounding soil. Then re-water using a Root Stimulator Fertilizer.

Step 2b
Field Grown
Trees & Shrubs

Center plant in hole 1 to 3 inches above grade. If soil and/or drainage are bad, 1/3 of root ball should be above grade. Extra soil may be necessary. Remember to move trees carefully. Roll the root ball on its side and "steer" it into the hole with the trunk. Straighten the tree upright in the hole. If treated burlap is used, cut slices on bottom and sides to allow the roots to grow through.
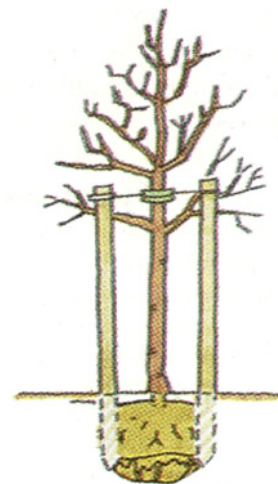
Fill hole with backfill soil 2/3 up the sides of rootball. Press or tamp firmly as you backfill so plant is held in place. Remove all cords, twine and burlap away from trunk 4 - 6" down sides of root ball.

Finish filling hole with backfill. Make a saucer of soil around the plant at outside of the root ball.

Apply a 2 to 3 inch layer of mulch. Leave an open space of 3 inches to keep from actual contact with plant trunk.

Water thoroughly by slowly soaking the root ball and surrounding soil. Then re-water using a Root Stimulator Fertilizer.

Step 3
Staking Container & Field Grown
Trees & Shrubs

For larger trees or those that have a tendency to lean, use two to three wires secured to anchor stakes in firm ground (never into the root ball). Where the wires touch the tree, they should be covered with hose to prevent damage.

PLANT CARE

Watering:
Plants should be slowly soaked to a depth of 4 inches, which is about an inch of water per week. This is necessary during the first year or two. Let the hose run slowly at the base of the plant until the water has penetrated to the root depth. Container plants usually are grown in a light soil mixture and need watering several times a week for about 3 weeks after planting. In dry conditions you may need to water more often. Burlapped root balls usually are of a heavier soil and hold water longer than container plants. DO NOT rely on a rainstorm to do your watering. Sometimes rain does not penetrate deep enough into the soil. Too much water can be a problem. Feel the soil. If it is wet, do not add water. Also, frequent light watering is not as good as a thorough soaking.

Fertilizing:
Your new plants should be given a Root Stimulator-type fertilizer right after planting. You should not use a fertilizer meant for mature plants on new material, as it could cause damage to your plant. It is essential for new plants to develop a healthy root system - top growth will follow. After the first season, regular fertilizers such as Holly-tone, Plant-tone, etc. can be used.

Insects & Diseases:
Keep an eye out for holes or brown leaves or needles. This could be a sign of insect- or disease-causing fungus problems. If you are not sure, bring in a sample for our professional staff to help identify the problem and prescribe necessary treatment.

Special Care Plants:
Azaleas, Hollies, Rhododendrons and Dogwoods all need well-drained, acidic soils, high in organic matter and a shady location. When planting, mix 1/2 of the removed soil with 1/2 Canadian Peat Moss.

SpringValley TREE '01.imp