

DO IT YOURSELF PLANTING & CARE

When you purchase quality nursery stock it is very important to maintain the plant's health and vigour. By following a few simple steps you can enjoy a healthy plant for many years to come.

The way you handle your shrubs and trees impacts their long term success! Keep storage to a minimum, ensuring they are in a cooler area and plant ASAP. Considering their age, and the years they have ahead of them, the act of planting is very brief; however this is your most critical step! Roots must be kept moist! Survival is dependent on root growth capacity. Next, commit yourself to giving each tree the five years it takes to fully establish for a healthy future. Following these tips insures rapid establishment of your trees and shrubs.



PREPARATION

... "Call Before You Dig". As part of the planting process, it's crucial that your underground lines are located. This free service is provided by the utilities such as telephone, gas, etc. & must be called as a cautionary measure. Their contact numbers are found in the government Blue Pages. For Saskatchewan the number is 1-866-828-4888. In most cases two working days are required to have your property marked out. F.Y.I.: tree spades/ augers account for 40% of the underground lines or cables cut in landscape related work!

TRANSPORTING TREES & SHRUBS IN POTS & WIRE BASKETS

... Transport all nursery stock with a consideration of the wind factor. Either haul within your vehicle or lay down trees and shrubs in a pickup truck box or trailer. Cover with an air tarp or one which is quickly removed at the destination to prevent wind burn and over-heating.



You will be able to handle by hand (sometimes two people required) all bare-root stock and most of the shrubbery and trees which is planted up and into #7 pots. After this size you will require an extra person and would benefit from the use of a hand truck/wheeler for all potted material up to #25 pot size. To handle wire basket trees unload with a tractor, skid steer or compact track loader with bucket or forks with securely fastened chains attached to both the lifting device while the basket is attached with two hooks (one on each side at 1:00 & 5:00) with a lift capacity of 1000 lbs. Lift by wire cage only - handle with care. Due to the weight factor, never allow a wire basket tree to be dropped, shaken or handled by the trunk. Any trauma to a wire basket tree may loosen the soil or break the trunk in the ball. Damage will eventually show up in a year or two.

SHORT TERM STORAGE

- ... Store plants away from sun and wind.
- ... Mist each tree with water to rehydrate after transport.
- ... Bare-root trees should be heeled-in; dig a trench and plant trees side by side standing upright. Cover roots with moist soil; ensure there are no air pockets around roots. When ready for planting, gently lift out of the soil and relocate before soil moisture diminishes. Keep roots moist but not standing in water – roots left in a pail of water for more than three hours will drown some species.
- ... Store light weight container grown shrubs/trees in shade and out of wind prior to planting. These must be watered daily ensuring there is added weight to each pot after watering. If soil mixture is dry, water will run out of drain holes immediately, and not impregnate into soil mixture.
- ... Store heavy weight potted and wire basket plants in a protected area away from direct sun and wind. The day prior to planting, thoroughly water the potted plant to ensure that it does not fall apart during the planting.
- ... Lay a tarp loosely over wire basket to keep sun/wind from drying them out.

TREE PLANTING - AVOID THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS

- ... Planting trees too close together
- ... Preventing access to utility transformers



- ... Planting too close to buildings, homes or one another
- ... Planting tall trees near utility lines

PLANTING TIPS FOR ALL TREES & SHRUBS

- ... Dig hole 1.5 times wider than the root spread or container width being planted.
- ... We prefer to use Bobcats with powered augers to dig holes of various diameters and depths, however we also employ a variety of hand-held sharpened shovels and other digging tools.
- ... Measure the plant from the ground to the soil level inside the pot. Dig the hole to that depth. The plant should sit on very firm soil. The hole should be six inches wider than the root ball, wider if it is poor quality soil. Place the soil you are removing from the hole in a wheelbarrow or on a tarp for reuse.
- ... The trees and shrubs must sit on very firm soil. Dig the hole and place the soil you are removing off to the side (in a wheelbarrow or a tarp for example). Dig the hole to the same depth the root ball is. You want the finished planted root ball at the exact same depth it came out of the nursery, no deeper or shallower.
- ... Resources permitting, the soil that is removed from the hole could be improved by mixing in a good rich amendment. Using quality top soil and perhaps a little bit of organic matter such as peat moss and compost will help most trees and shrubs adapt to their new environment for a good healthy start, and to get the plant acclimated to its new location.
- ... The main roots of trees travel horizontally 1 inch/2.5 cm under the surface. **DO NOT PLANT DEEPER AND DO NOT COVER THE TOP OF THE ROOT BALL WITH ANY SOIL.**
- ... Notice the color change on the bark to assist in determining the actual soil line.
- ... Avoid leaving the exposed roots in the sun or wind any longer than absolutely needed. Root disturbance must be kept to an absolute minimum.
- ... Field grown product are heavy, only handle plant by the container, never by the trunk, this is a potential breaking point.
- ... Save yourself considerable effort and co-ordinate the digging of holes to coincide with the arrival of heavy trees and shrubs at your planting site: Be smart and unload trees beside each pre-dug or about to be dug



hole. If you unload into a holding area instead, you'll want mechanization to facilitate the re-handling later.

BARE ROOT TREES AND SHRUBS:

- ... Do not take out of moist sawdust until ready to insert into prepared hole. In the planting hole, spread/fan out roots and back fill with soil. If hot and windy, plant after 4:00 p.m - never in the heat of the day! Have lots of water available to keep this very delicate root system moist.

CONTAINER GROWN SHRUBS AND SOME SHADE TREES

- ... THE SPECIAL LIGHTWEIGHT FIBROUS SOIL MIXTURE. ALL THESE TREES REQUIRE DAILY WATERING UNTIL WELL ROOTED INTO A PERMANENT HOME.
- ... Do yourself a favor, handle only by the pot, NEVER THE TRUNK.
- ... When ready to remove shrub from pot, place hand over top of root ball slipping trunk between spread fingers.
- ... Flip pot upside down holding on to plant and tap pot with hand tool or heel of hand to remove plant.
- ... Make four vertical score marks one inch/2.5 cm deep around root ball. This is important to discourage circling (girdling) of roots after planting. Do this to greatly extend life expectancy.

FIELD GROWN POTTED TREES AND SHRUBS WITH LINERS:

- ... This method will allow the pot to be re-used.
- ... It's one thing to fill our nice containers with beautiful trees and shrubs, it's another to remove them at time of planting. We facilitate your task of removal for most #5 through to #25 pots with liners. These burlap liners make the planting process easier and minimize root disturbance. When extracting the tree from the pot, grasp the corners of the burlap, place one foot on pot rim and together pull liner upwards, keeping the liner tight against the root ball. Lift tree or shrub out of the pot and place carefully into the ground without disturbing the root system Do not pull liner away from the root ball because fine root hairs may already be penetrating the decomposable burlap liner which is intended to be planted and buried with the root ball. You can pre-order your trees with these liners., doing so will allow any nursery to re-use the container.





... Place tree or shrub in the prepared hole and back fill with soil mixture $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up the root ball. Tamp the soil firm around the root ball. Ensure the tree is perfectly upright and straight. Continue to add more soil and tamp it in firm. The top of the backfilling soil should be level with the outer edge of the root ball. Cut off all excess burlap above ground.



FIELD GROWN POTTED TREES AND SHRUBS WITHOUT LINERS:

... This process usually requires cutting and literally destroying the pot. Have pot at edge of prepared hole, get a sharp linoleum or locking blade knife (utility knife is not strong enough!) and cut off the bottom of the pot, starting at a drain hole opening by spinning the pot around as you cut. With the assistance of at least one other person, lift the pot (bottom cut off with tree within) and set into planting hole. Begin to back fill soil and tamp it firm around the bottom of the root ball. Leave an entry point to get your knife into another drain hole and cut the pot vertically upwards on pot wall towards rim, cut through the pot rim (watch your neck). Ensure the tree is perfectly upright and straight. Continue to add more soil and tamp it in firm, this should be done with every four inches / 10 cm of soil. Lift out pot before you finish back filling by slipping the pot up and away. The top of the backfilling soil should be level with the outer edge of the root ball.



FIELD GROWN WIRE BASKET TREES (BALL & BURLAP):

... Field grown trees are very heavy, handling wire baskets requires caution; they are very heavy and you're exposed to personal injury if not handled with caution. We transport them several ways, typically with either a loading arm with suspended chains with modified hooks to grab the top of the wire basket (the basket strains and may deform slightly under the heavy weight), or with hydraulic forks which squeeze the root ball. Buckets will work to lift the trees but extreme caution is required (secure within the bucket with a chain and consider additional personal protection in the event the tree topples over and potentially strikes the equipment operator). Pending the size of the basket, your average 10 foot tree in a 36 inch bas-

ket weighs 1,000 pounds. It's the root ball which weighs the most therefore be careful when handling and nudging one way or another. Do not handle by the trunk, this is a potential breaking point.

- ... With everything still intact including the burlap and wire cage, carefully manoeuvre the tree into the planting hole and check that the depth is identical to the root ball. The top outer edge of the root ball should be level with the surrounding ground; if not, repeat the procedure to get it right.
- ... Add just a few scoops of soil to the bottom of the hole and tamp it firmly around the root ball. This will greatly assist with securing the tree firmly in place. Ensure the tree is perfectly upright and straight. Continue to add more soil and tamp it in firm, this should be done with every four inches/10 cm of soil. The top of the backfilling soil should be level with the outer edge of the root ball. Do not cover the top of the root ball with any soil.
- ... Wire basket trees are held together and kept snug with a biodegradable cord or long lasting nylon strap. If your basket was laced with a nylon strap, it must be removed once the tree is in the hole. Some customers may also remove the top ring on the wire basket.

STAKING TREES:

- ... Trees over 5 feet/1.5 meters in height should be staked to prevent the wind from blowing them over crooked.
- ... Stake with two or more fence posts, 5/8 inch rebar or T-bar to stabilize the tree and root ball after planting - do not stake too high and do not stake to tight. Stake the tree no higher than 2/3 it's height.
- ... The industry employs 12 gauge wire or polypropylene rope for fastening the tree to the stake. Protect the tree trunk by feeding the portion of wire or rope through a 10-inch long length of water hose. The hose or any other type of soft flexible material may be used to loop around the tender growing bark.
- ... With the tree secured you will now be able to remove all the cord/rope securing the top of the wire basket together. Then remove/cut off the burlap from just the topmost portion of the root ball. Follow this procedure to prevent future girdling of the tree trunk.
- ... Stake for the first year only and mark your following year's calendar as a reminder to remove the stakes and wire, etc.

CREATE A BERM & MOAT:

- ... Use the displaced soil from when the hole was dug to build a raised berm to create a moat similar to that which surrounds a castle. Think of a donut preventing water run-off.
- ... This moat will help maximize the amount of water that gets down to the root zone. When you water your investment to ensure good moist soil for the plant all the way to the bottom, you are reducing transplant shock and dehydration problems later as the top level of the soil dries.

WATER:

- ... Watering is crucial: DRY SOIL IS A KILLER for all new plants. Do so immediately

after planting with a good soaking. If you create the berm and moat, fill it with water and you'll appreciate that extra effort often.

... The first good watering of newly disturbed soil will be your last good opportunity to double check to make sure tree is still straight. Within the first THREE good soakings, the soil will settle and firm up eliminating air pockets and fuse the soil particles together to start the new relationship of the trees and shrubs to their surrounding soil. Add more soil around the edges if settling occurs.

... Never allow soil around newly planted trees and shrubs to dry out. Successful establishment in the first year requires CONSISTENT SOIL MOISTURE. In very hot, windy weather, water as much as two or three times a week (our nursery is watered daily).

... Depending on soil types, you may be required to ensure your trees receive the equivalent of 2.5 gallons per inch/4 litres per cm of trunk diameter). Water twice a week throughout the hottest part of the growing season. On the other hand you don't want to drown your trees and shrubs either - depend on a moisture meter.

... A **Moisture Meter is a low cost probe** and will assist in determining soil moisture. Insert into the soil near the root ball and add water if the Moisture Meter indicates such. A deciduous tree shows lack of moisture by wilting within days, whereas coniferous trees might not show signs of lack of moisture for up to two weeks, unfortunately by then the damage might not be reversible. It is important to keep the moisture content up during the growing season as well as insuring your plants go into the dormant stage in the fall well watered so that when they begin to come alive in spring they have a great start and another prolific growing season. These Moisture Meters are a very inexpensive way to determine the water requirements of plants and will reduce the risk of your trees perishing. **GET ONE!!!**

... In October until freeze up, water five feet beyond the trunk of the tree to minimize winter desiccation. Keep tree consistently moist for the next five years.

MULCH:

... Mulches are a must, assisting in maintaining and pre-



serving soil moisture. This can be comprised of grass clippings, leaf material, straw, plastic, tire crumb, old carpet flipped upside down, wet newsprint and other stuff.

- ... If wood chips are used, apply no deeper than 4 inches/10 cm deep and keep off the trunk of the tree.
- ... Mulch will minimize weeds which hamper growth and survival by thieving moisture and nutrients.

FERTILITY:

- ... In the spring, fertilize only once with 10-52-10 water soluble fertilizer and follow manufacturer recommendations to ensure root establishment. If it is necessary to fertilize a second time, do so only once with 20-20-20 water soluble fertilizer and follow manufacturer recommendations for vigorous top growth and vibrant deep colour. Refrain from over fertilization! You run the risk of severely burning the root system and permanently damaging the tree.

PESTILENCE:

- ... Be vigilant of localized colour changes in your foliage. Take a picture then search for pests of the species in question on "Google Images".

ANTI-DESICCANTS:

- ... Applied to foliage of trees, especially those exposed on harsh windy sites prior to freeze-up. It's a good idea to apply this product in the late fall to minimize the risk of winter burn in March causing the needles and foliage to turn brown, which indicates drought stress, as the sun is intense and reflects off the snow causing the plant to heat up and dry out.



**PLANT ANYTIME UNTIL FREEZE UP
ENJOY YOUR JOURNEY!**

PHOTOS OF ALL PLANT STOCK CAN BE VIEWED ONLINE AT:

WWW.GOOGLE.CA

CLICK ON IMAGE TAB - ENTER SEARCH WORDS.

IDEAS FROM THE NURSERY DESK

When selecting plant materials, the following snippets are why it's such a great idea to plant trees and shrubs.

Trees enhance almost any environment such as the beautification of golf courses, parks, boulevards, cityscapes, residential landscapes and general development.



Trees provide shade from the sun, shelter from the winter winds thus reducing cooling & heating bills. Create additional environments and attract wildlife. These endeavors result in increased property values.

Planting non-typical or unusual species adds biodiversity to your immediate environment. The establishment of many diverse species promotes the added benefits of buffering against the onslaught of significant pestilence issues.



These issues may threaten the mono-cultural species of your area. With broader diversity comes further checks and balances providing additional natural buffers to assist in protecting what already exists in your local environment. One ought to consider this one aspect of biodiversity not only from an aesthetic perspective but also as an environmental safety check-valve. Adding different species sooner than later will most likely pay handsome rewards years down the road.

Lure your residents away from flat-screens with inviting places to get physical. Get the children of your communities involved and start planting, entice them to get onboard and make it fun. They will feel a deep attachment to this place for the rest of their life, leave a tribute for the earth. Establish walkways, jogging paths and adventuresome biking trails. Getting under the



natural protection of large shade trees enable you to ditch the umbrellas and sunscreen. Trees also can provide shelter from the cool evening breeze. Provide great spaces so your neighbors have an opportunity to meet.



Make it larger than life, have the local business community contribute the shovels, wagons, water hoses, buckets, soil if required and what ever else you can dream of, create it and they will come and stay.

Choosing and implementing new policies can be daunting. How adventurous are you prepared to be? Standing out in the crowd isn't such a bad thing you know, especially if it's unselfish. Think of the generations to come, wouldn't it be nice to have more green spaces than what already exists!



Watch your place grow! Create a visual and environmental impact; trap pollution, carbon dioxide and provide us all with oxygen so that the world may continue to exist. Start small - dream big.

If you have questions, we'd be happy to assist you in your plans, provide you with suggestions, in addition to a sustainable long term source of extra premium trees. As a reminder, we also carry those Christmas trees or accessories for your favorite clients' halls or foyers.

As always, these past years have been bustling with activity. We're always here during the week, busy with the many different aspects of our endeavors. As has always been our policy, we are here for you.

