



## Planting your Balled & Burlapped Tree (B&B Tree)

The hole in which you plant your new tree should be about twice as wide as the ball of dirt & roots. The depth of your hole should be no more than the height of the ball. This is the important part of the planting process: To make sure that your hole is not too deep. Triple check the depth....once it goes in the hole, it is very hard to get it back out to fill in the hole to the correct depth. One of the big mistakes that one can make when planting a tree is to plant it too deep.

Once you have the hole dug, carefully roll the tree into position next to the hole and gently roll it in the hole. Be careful not to have it spring up and hit you. Once you have it straight, back fill with soil just a little to hold it in place. The next step is to cut off and dispose of the twine (string) that is holding the basket to the trunk of the tree.

At this point – you will notice 4 to 5 “ears” on the wire basket. This is where the twine was threaded through. These ears should be folded all the way back – until below ground level. This will now reveal the top of the basket and the burlap that is going to the top of the ball next to the trunk. Take a utility knife and cut the burlap off from just above the top horizontal wire of the basket and dispose of this. You are now ready to continue backfilling, making sure that the tree is straight. If you wish to remove some of the wire basket with a bolt cutter, prior to backfilling, you may do so at this point, but this step can be skipped as long as the “ears” of the wire basket are folded down below ground level, and provided that you fertilize the tree each spring. Fertilizer (use moderately) will gradually rot out the wire over a period of years.

The top wire of the basket should be below ground level, but the top of the soil ball one inch or 1 1/2” above surrounding ground level. The basket and the burlap will decompose over time. If you decide to remove the wire basket, do so only after the tree is standing nice and straight in the planting hole, as it won't have to be moved again after removal of the wire. Handling or moving of a balled and burlapped tree after removal of the basket could disturb and injure important tree roots.

Once you have completed backfilling with loose, crumbly soil. Gently firm the soil with light foot pressure, then make a “moat” or “dike” of dirt around the hole you have just filled in. This need only be 2–3” tall, but it will help in holding in the water as you water the tree in the re-establishment period in your yard. It is a good idea to leave this dirt dike in place for the first year – and then you can simply rake it out.

If you fill up the ring dike one or two times, this should constitute a good watering, and water the tree this way – 1 –2 times per week, depending on temperatures, winds and rainfall. If you have sandy soil, use a bit more water. If you have heavy, sticky soil, use a bit less. Rainfall is often inadequate since an inch of rain usually only soaks in about 6”. Filling the dike once or twice is more like a 1½” – 3” or greater rainfall. **Do Not** leave a hose trickling at the base of the newly planted tree. You won't know how much water your tree received. This will void the tree warranty.