

## OVERVIEW

Never plant any deeper than the original soil level that the plant has been growing in.

It is a good idea to mulch all new plantings to help retain moisture and reduce weeds. Do not pile the mulch against the stems/trunks of the plant materials.

**The use of a transplant fertilizer is recommended for all new plantings by Landscape Ontario.**



It is always a good idea to use a transplant fertilizer to help your plants get off to the right start. The high phosphorus 'Transplanter' type fertilizer is the only appropriate fertilizer to use in the first and second seasons.

Parkwood™ Transplanter 5-15-5 has been specially formulated to give your plants the boost they need for good root development. Immediately after planting and the initial deep watering apply Parkwood™ Transplanter 5-15-5 for best results.

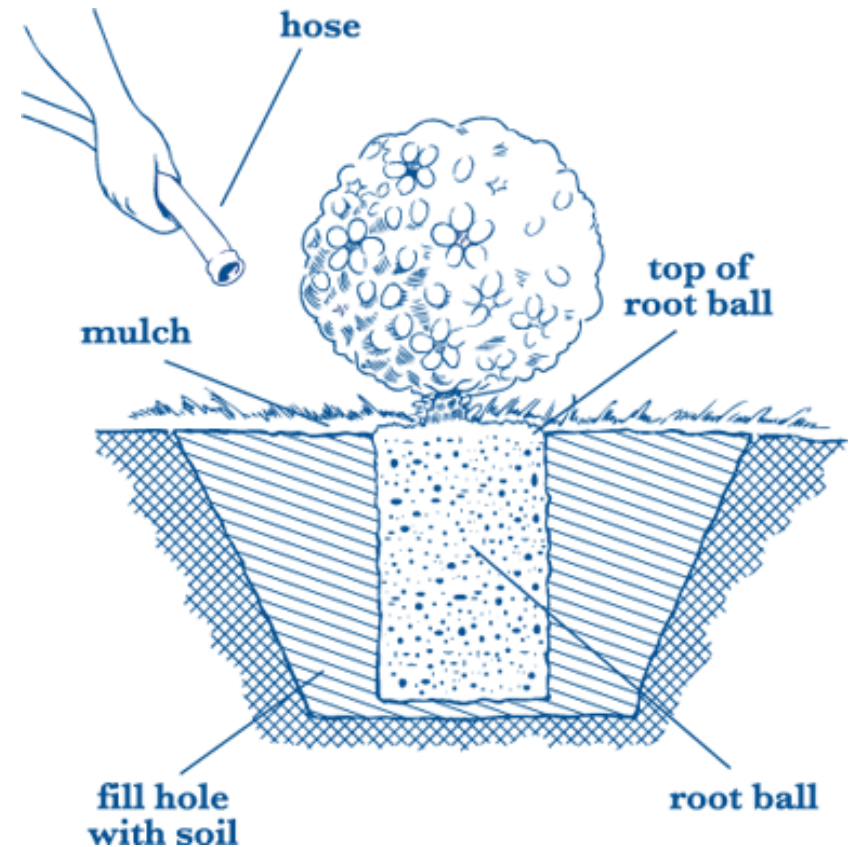
Water your new plantings whenever the soil feels dry to the touch and then water thoroughly. A light, surface watering is no better than not watering at all. Water *must* penetrate the entire root ball to the very bottom of the root system. We recommend a long slow watering right into the root ball.

All plantings should be watered very thoroughly in the fall before the final freeze up in November/December to prevent plants from drying out and dying over the winter season. This should be done for all plantings but is especially important the first and second winter seasons.

A dormant spray is also recommended for most trees and shrubs in the fall and/or spring to prevent insect and disease infestations. Please inquire for specific instructions and exceptions.

If you have any further questions or clarification of anything regarding your plantings please call at any time.

## PLANTING & WATERING INSTRUCTIONS



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## PREPARATION

Prepare the hole so it is larger than the root ball to allow a *minimum* of five to six inches on all sides. If the soil is very heavy or hard make the hole much wider than the root ball, and loosen the soil at the sides of the hole by rocking the tines of a garden fork back and forth. If the soil does not drain well, plant the root ball about 2 to 3 inches higher than the level of the plant in the pot and then slope to surrounding soil. With very large, heavy root balls the bottom of the hole should be left solid to provide support and prevent excessive settling.

Refill the hole with the soil *from the hole* amended with triple mix *or* one quarter to one third peat moss, and one quarter to one third rotted or composted manure. A few specialty plants will require some variation to this formula, for example, Rhododendrons, Azaleas and some other broad leaved evergreens should have the peat moss increased to one half and the other materials reduced proportionately.

After planting water thoroughly and feed with a “transplanter” type fertilizer. Do not ever let your plants dry out completely within the first two years of planting. Do not over water, plants should be kept moist but not wet.

In heavy, clay soils (very common in this area) we suggest you fill your prepared hole with water. If it does not drain completely within 24 hours use the raised planting method and choose plants that will tolerate “wet feet”. This is especially important if the soil slopes towards your planting hole as water will find the area of loosened soil and create a “bath tub” effect in the hard clay soil. In extreme cases you may have to create raised beds for planting.

## CONTAINER TYPES:

**Balled & Burlaped:** Many trees and shrubs will come in a root ball wrapped in burlap. After placing the root ball in the prepared hole fill to about one half to two thirds of the way up the ball. Then cut and remove all string and burlap from around the trunk and stems. Remaining burlap may be removed or folded back into the hole. Exposed wire loops of a wire basket should be removed using wire or bolt cutters. Then fill the remaining space in the planting hole being sure to cover all exposed burlap which would “wick out” moisture.

**Fibre Pots:** Remove the rim down below the soil surface, remove the bottom, make three or four slits from the bottom of the pot about halfway up the sides then plant pot and all. These pots will rot away over a few growing seasons.

**Metal, Plastic & Wood:** Tap the sides gently to release the root ball from the sides of the pot, slide the plant out and insert in the prepared hole. In some cases you may have to slit the pot from top to bottom and then “peel” it off.

**In all cases,** if you are not planting immediately, place the plant in a shaded area and keep well watered until ready to plant.

## WATERING

***By far the most important thing in growing plant materials is proper watering.*** Plants *must* be thoroughly soaked immediately after planting and must be maintained with proper moisture until established. A transplant fertilizer should be applied immediately after the first watering. You must do a deep soaking on a regular basis. **For best results lay your hose at the base of the plant and let it run at a slow trickle until the rootball is thoroughly soaked.** For shrubs 10 to 30 minutes would be typical, larger rootballs may take up to an hour or more. Check the rootball for moisture on a regular basis, during hot weather they may require watering every couple of days, during cooler weather perhaps every week or so. Plants *must* have their moisture level maintained but *do not* like “wet feet” ie: they should not sit in water for an extended time.

Apply a layer of mulch about 5 to 7.5 cm deep over the soil surface of the garden to retain moisture, moderate soil temperature, control erosion and suppress weeds. Wood chips, bark and shredded wood are just a few of the materials that can be used as mulch.

The following chart is a ***guideline*** to the watering of your plant materials. You must take into account specific conditions: soil type, amount of sunlight, wind etc. For best results you must check each plant on a regular basis. If the root ball is dry or close to it, water, if it is wet or thoroughly moist then you can wait. If plants have inadvertently dried to the point of wilting (not recommended) then a light misting of the foliage ***in addition to proper watering*** will help them recover.

	WARM/HOT WEATHER 25° C plus	MODERATE WEATHER 10 -25° C	COOL WEATHER below 10° C
Newly Planted Tree or Shrub (for the first 12-36 months)	Once every 2-3 days (possibly more)	Once every 5-7 days +/-	Once every 2-3 weeks in the A.M. on warm sunny days
Established tree or shrub	Once every 7-10 days	Once every 14-20 days	Once a month
Amount of water applied	Tree: 100-150 litres Shrub: 10-25 litres	Tree: 75-100 litres Shrub: 5-10 litres	Tree: 75-100 litres Shrub: 5-10 litres