

Planting Shrubs & Evergreens in Heavy Soil

Before Digging

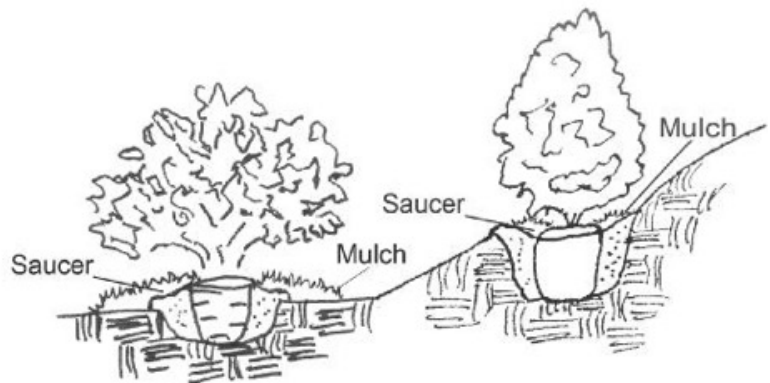
To prevent injury while planting in your landscape, contact Gopher One at (651) 454-0002 to have underground utilities marked.

Installation

1. Dig a hole a minimum of 6 inches wider than the diameter of the root ball and 2 inches less deep than the depth of the root ball.
2. The bottom of the hole should be firm so the plant will not settle. The sides of the hole should be "roughed up" rather than smooth.
3. For potted plants, use a sharp knife to cut away the pot. Rough up the roots to break them from their circling pattern. If circling roots are heavy, cut 1 inch deep into the root ball. Do this in a line down three sides of the ball.
4. For balled and burlapped plants, cut and remove the rope and burlap from around the top of the root ball.
5. Before planting, prune off any dead or broken branches.
6. Place the plant in the hole; the top of the root ball must be 2 inches above the soil grade. Check for straightness. View from two directions.
7. Amend the original soil by blending one-part good quality top soil with one-part original soil. Then fill the hole halfway using the amended soil. Add a slow release fertilizer, if desired, then tamp the soil.
8. Add more amended soil, tamp in firmly, and make a slight saucer that can be hidden by mulch.
9. Water thoroughly by filling the saucer several times. Add soil if settling occurs.
10. Add a layer of mulch to hide the saucer, keeping mulch away from the trunk.

Planting on a Slope

1. Trees and shrubs should always be planted straight up (plumb).
2. Dig a hole that is the same depth as the root ball, so the top of the root ball is level with the downhill edge of the hole.
3. Soil should be amended as described above for planting in heavy soil sites. The finished hole should have a small lip on the downhill side to retain a small amount of water.
4. Low-growing, spreading shrubs, evergreens, and groundcover plants should be planted to follow the slope.



Still have questions? See us online or give us a call.

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