

How to Plant Trees & Shrubs

Water Dig Enrich Feed Plant Water

Digging a planting hole is significantly easier if the soil you are working in is moist. Pre-water the area you plan to work in with a gentle, long, slow soak a day or two before you begin planting. (Use a soaker hose or oscillating sprinkler to give the area the equivalent of a long winter rain.)



Water the plant material in its container before you plant it as well as after.



Dig a hole at least twice as wide and the same height as the nursery container your plant came home in. Be generous with the planting hole width. A wide planting hole will help the roots establish quickly and grow faster.



Enrich the existing soil that came out of the planting hole with Master Nursery Planting Mix (Or Master Rose Planting mix, etc.) Mix the existing soil with the planting mix at a 50/50 ratio, existing soil to planting mix. (25/75 for shade plants and citrus plants.)



Feed with Master Start fertilizer and Osmocote fertilizer by adding the appropriate amount to the amended soil and mix together thoroughly.



Plant the shrub by carefully removing it from the container. Gently rough the outer edges of the root ball and place it in the hole so that the top of the root ball rests slightly higher than the existing ground level (never place any soil above the root ball, covering the stem). Use some of the extra soil to build a circular dam around the new plant to hold a generous quantity of irrigation water.

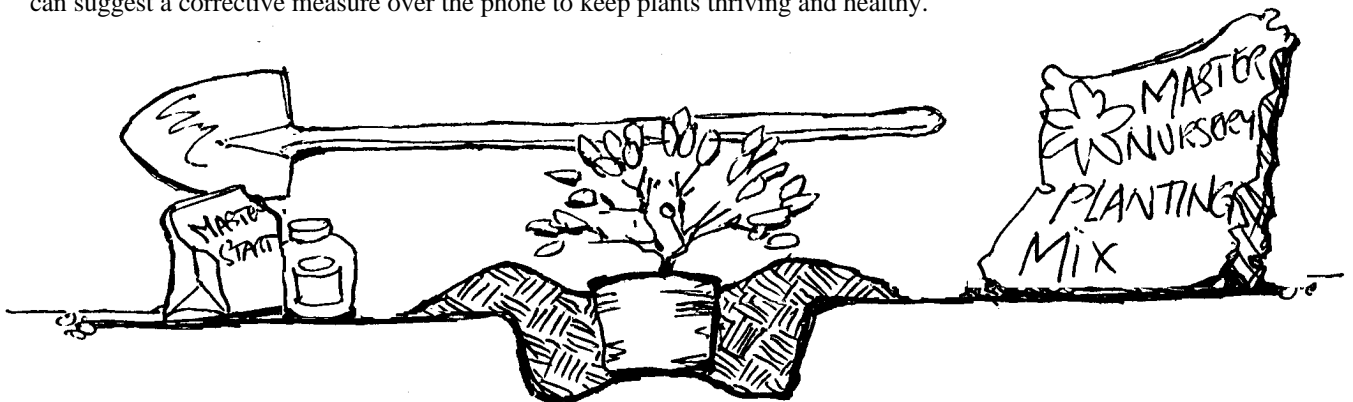


Water the plant in well after you have finished planting it. Let the water soak in, and then water again.

Nursery plants are often watered every day to keep them thriving. Once your plant is in the ground at home, its water needs will soon decrease. While the plant is getting established, finger-check the moisture in the root ball daily and be prepared to water daily if necessary. Water deeply and less frequently as weeks pass. Most plants require 3 to 4 waterings a week when planted in warmer months, little water over the cooler months, and only 1 to 3 waterings a week the following spring/summer.

Begin to feed your new plant after a month or two with appropriate fertilizer, (Master Rose and Flower Food for Flowering plants, Formula 49 for most shrubs, etc.) Continue feeding according to our **landscape care and feeding calendar** every 4 to 6 weeks.

We do guarantee our plants to grow, and we also recognize that we are partners with you in caring for your new plant. If you have any concerns about the health or vigor of your plant, please let us know right away. Often, we can suggest a corrective measure over the phone to keep plants thriving and healthy.



Size	Osmocote	Master Start	Planting Mix	Lodge Poles	Tree Ties
1 Gallon	1 Tbs.	2 Tbs.	1/5 th cubic ft.		
2-3 Gallon	2 Tbs.	4 Tbs.	1/2 cubic ft.		
5 Gallon	4 Tbs.	8 Tbs.	1 cubic ft.	2 (8') per tree	4 per tree
15 Gallon	1/2 cup	1 cup	2 cubic ft.	2 (10') per tree	4 per tree



Tree Staking Guidelines

Most trees are top heavy in the wind and require staking at the time of planting. Stakes are generally needed the first 2 years in the landscape until the root system and trunk are well established. The objective is to support the trunk gently, allowing some movement in ordinary breezes. Allowing some movement insures the tree trunk develops necessary strength. The stakes are not meant to tightly restrict movement, but should be standing by for the occasional windstorm that could otherwise break or knock over a tree.

Lodge poles

These are the most common and least expensive staking alternative. They are placed in pairs left and right of the tree, and tied with rubber straps. Two stakes are suggested for most trees, the height depends on the particular tree; eight foot poles are fine for most trees; ten foot poles for taller trees.

After the planting hole is prepared, but before placing the tree in the hole, drive 2 planting stakes root-ball-width apart into the solid undisturbed soil beneath the hole. Place the stakes north and south of the tree so that they sort of cradle the tree in the prevailing westerly wind.

Place the plant between the stakes and finish planting according to the instructions on the reverse side of this flier. Make sure the top of the root ball rests a little higher than the surrounding, original grade.

Secure the tree with rubber tree ties just below the first set of branches and also about halfway up the tree trunk, between the ground and the first branch. Don't secure the tree so tightly that it cannot move in the wind. The stakes and ties are there for support in the wilder weather, but the tree should be allowed to sway and develop strength on its own in ordinary weather.

Each fall, re-inspect the lodge poles and ties to be sure they are secure for the winter ahead.

Reddy Stake System

These are the green metal tree stakes seen around town in industrial or municipal landscapes. The Reddy Stake System is easier to install than lodge poles. The Reddy Stake screws into the ground. Only one pole is needed per tree.

Reddy Stakes come in 7 and 9 feet in length. Generally, 7 foot is used for 5 gallon, and 9 foot for larger.

After planting your tree, position the Reddy stake 12" away from the tree on the side of the prevailing wind. Use the "L" shaped bar through the hole in the top of the Reddy stake and twist the Reddy Stake into the ground. Complete the installation process to secure the tree according to instructions in the Reddy Stake package.

Water your new tree according to the instructions on the opposite side of this form. Call us with your questions and concerns!

