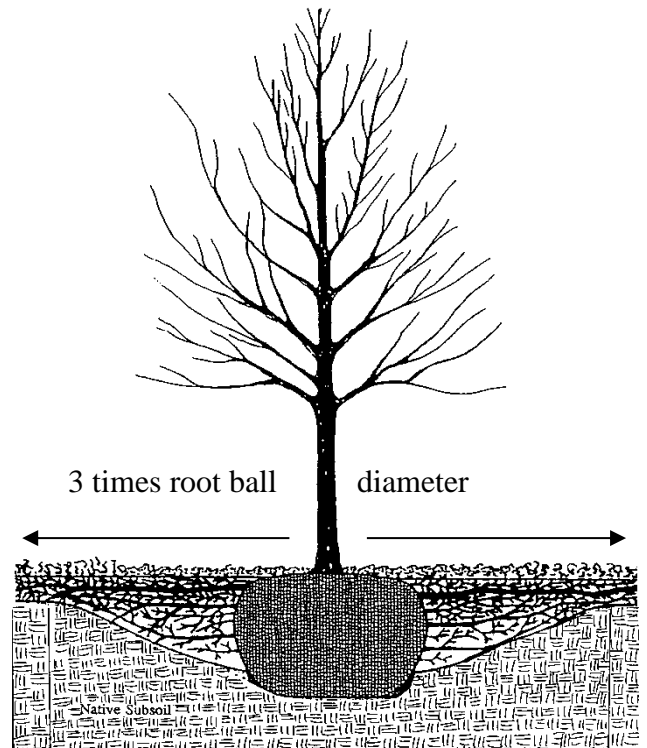


TREE PLANTING POINTERS

1. Select the proper tree for the site being considered.
2. Dig a large basin-shaped hole at least three to five times the diameter of the root ball.
3. If planting in a lawn area, remove the grass because it will compete for water and nutrients.
4. Make the hole no deeper than the trunk flare. It may be necessary to untie the burlap to accurately find the trunk flare (where the roots begin to radiate out from the trunk.) Due to cultivating practices in some nurseries, dirt is pushed up against the tree trunk, making it difficult to know where this critical feature is.
5. After placing the root ball in planting hole, remove the upper two-thirds of the burlap since it may have been treated to slow rot. Also, remove all twine used to hold the burlap around the root ball.
6. Use native (original) soil to backfill the hole. Amendments are **not** recommended. This type of planting provides for adequate air and water to reach tree roots and loosens the area for roots to penetrate surrounding soil.
7. During the planting process, fill the hole with water and allow it to drain completely. This helps eliminate air pockets.
8. Add a three-inch layer of organic mulch such as compost or fine bark, keeping it six inches away from the tree trunk.
9. Finally, create a ridge of soil around the planting hole to hold the water and allow it to soak in deeply.



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