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TREE & SHRUB INSTALLATION GUIDE

Step 1 Digging the Hole: Dig the hole twice as wide as the root ball or the container that the plant is in. Plant the tree or shrub deep enough to leave approximately 1-2” of the base above the soil level. This will prevent planting too deep and account for natural settling of the soil.

Step 2 Soil Preparation: Plant trees and shrubs with a mixture of 1/3 existing soil, 1/3 new topsoil, and 1/3 peat moss or mushroom compost. In a very waterlogged and clay filled hole, do not put any existing soil back into the hole. Make sure to dig a very wide hole and backfill with plenty of compost. Next, tamp the bottom of the hole to create a flat surface and center the root ball in the hole. Place the plant in the hole so it is elevated slightly above the soil level (~1-2”). Before you complete the backfill process step down the soil to provide structure around the root ball and ensure that you have made a slight mound with the new soil on top of the root ball to prevent planting too deep.

Step 3 Installation: When planting a ball & burlap tree or shrub, do not remove the string or wire basket. Always remove the plastic wrapping and cut pie shaped slices into the burlap at the top of the root ball. For container plants, cut the container from around the root ball and plant the entire soil mass in the hole.

Step 4 Fertilizing & Mulching: Sprinkler Anderson’s 12-16-6 Tree & Shrub Fertilizer in each hole for a slow released feeding or apply liquid Miracle-Gro every 2-3 weeks after planting. After backfilling around your plant, spread 1-2” of Hardwood Mulch at the base. Do not apply mulch around the main trunk or create a thick, volcano shaped mound as this will cause the plant to become overwatered. Mulch rings in the lawn should be at least 4’ in diameter to prevent injury from lawn mowers.

Step 5 Watering:

PLANT TYPE	DURATION	QUANTITY	SEASON
TREE	1-2 minutes	Every other day for 1.5 weeks after planting; Every 2-3 days for 2 more weeks; 3 times per week for rest of the year (1-2 times per week if established)	Spring
SHRUB PERENNIALS	20-30 seconds 10-15 seconds	Every other day for 1 week after planting; Every 2-3 days for 2 more weeks; 3 times per week for rest of the year (1-2 times per week if established)	
SOD	15-20 minutes	New Sod: 2-3 times per day (per zone) for 2 weeks; 1 time per day for 2-3 more weeks; 4-5 times per week for rest of the year; Existing Sod: requires atleast 1” of water per week	
TREE	1-2 minutes	EVERYDAY FOR 1 WEEK THEN FOLLOW SPRING	Summer
SHRUB	20-30 seconds	EVERYDAY FOR 1 WEEK THEN FOLLOW SPRING	
SOD	15-20 minutes	New Sod: 2 times per day (per zone); Existing Sod: 4-5 times per week	
TREE	1-2 minutes	Every other day for 1.5 weeks after planting; Every 2-3 days for 2 more weeks; 3 times per week for rest year (1-2 times per week if established)	Fall
SHRUB PERENNIALS	20-30 seconds 10-15 seconds	Every other day for 1 week after planting; Every 2-3 days for 2 more weeks; 3 times per week for rest of Fall (1-2 times per week if established)	
SOD	15-20 minutes	New Sod: 1-2 times per day (per zone); Existing Sod: 3-4 times per week	

Download our Care Manual at www.jimmelkalandscaping.com/Resources/ for more detailed care instructions