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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” of the base above the soil level. This will prevent planting too deep.

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. Before you complete the backfill process ensure that you have made a slight mound with the new soil on top of the root ball. This taper will ensure that water does not site at the center of the root ball and when the ground beneath begins to settle, your planting depth will be spot on.

Step 3 Installation: When planting a ball & burlap tree or shrub, do not remove the string or wire basket. Allow to 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 mass in the hole.

Step 4 Mulching: 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 week after planting; Every 2-3 days for 2 more weeks; 1-2 times per week for rest of Spring (1-2 times per week if established)	Spring
SHRUB	20-30 seconds	Every other day for 1 week after planting; Every 2-3 days for 2 more weeks; 1-2 times per week for rest of Spring (1-2 times per week if established)	
SOD	15-20 minutes	New Sod: 2-3 times per day (per zone) for 2 weeks; every 2 days for 2-3 more weeks; 1-2 times per week throughout Spring; Existing Sod: requires atleast 1” of water per week	
TREE	1-2 minutes	Every 2-3 days throughout the Summer	Summer
SHRUB	20-30 seconds	Every 2-3 days throughout the Summer	
SOD	15-30 minutes *depending on sprinkler head type	New Sod: once a day if possible; Existing Sod: 2-3 times per week	
TREE	1-2 minutes	Every other day for 1 week after planting; Every 2-3 days for 2 more weeks; 1-2 times per week for rest of Fall (1-2 times per week if established)	Fall
SHRUB	20-30 seconds	Every other day for 1 week after planting; Every 2-3 days for 2 more weeks; 1-2 times per week for rest of Spring (1-2 times per week if established)	
SOD	15-30 minutes *depending on sprinkler head type	1-2 times per week if needed	