



CAUTION

- Use extreme caution when handling trees. Use a chain cradle or strap cradle attached to root ball to unload & move trees. Strapping & wire basket can break or loosen. Never move, lift, or handle by attaching to or by putting pressure on the trunk. Stand clear at all times! Be certain your equipment, including straps & chain cradles, is rated for the weights you are lifting.

HANDLING AND PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

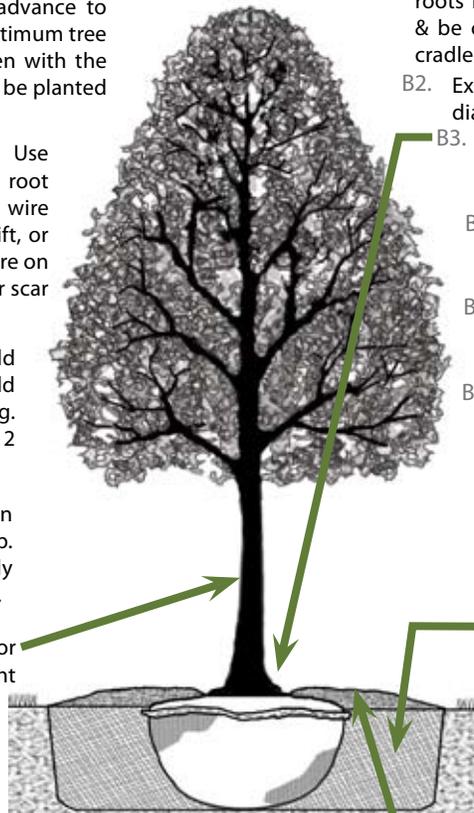
- Closely following these instructions should promote healthy tree growth & should prevent the following challenges from occurring: *defoliation / holding brown leaves, *formation of trunk-girdling roots, *secondary pests (insects / disease), *trunk & canopy damage, *leaning trees / loose root balls, *poor health, lack of vigor, decline or death.

A. UNLOADING, HANDLING, & STAGING

- A1. Staging systems should be prepared in advance to adequately hold trees above ground for optimum tree health prior to planting. Many times, even with the best planning & coordination, trees cannot be planted when they are delivered.
- A2. Use extreme caution when handling trees. Use a chain cradle or strap cradle attached to root ball to unload & move trees. Strapping & wire basket can break or loosen. Never move, lift, or handle by attaching to or by putting pressure on the trunk. Be very careful not to damage or scar trunks & branches.
- A3. Prior to unloading, proper moisture should be maintained in the root balls. Trucks should be staged in the shade prior to unloading. Unloading time should be no more than 2 hours per truck.
- A4. Immediately after unloading (no more than one hour after unloading) stand trees up. This will reduce the risk of sunscald. Properly staged trees are standing, untied, & spaced.
- A5. Remove the cardboard trunk protector within 48 hours of trees being stood upright to reduce the risk of damage.
- A6. Monitor moisture in the root ball by probing the soil with a soil probe & manage the supplemental irrigation accordingly. Be careful not to over or under irrigate.
- A7. During cold weather periods, root balls must be protected from freezing temperatures.

B. PLANTING

- B1. Before planting, remove any plastic wrap & any circling roots from the root ball. Handle tree only by root ball & be certain your equipment, including strap & chain cradles, are rated for the weights you are lifting.
- B2. Excavate planting hole at least two times the diameter of & 2" shallower than the root ball.
- B3. Place root ball at a level where the trunk flare will be 2" above surrounding finished grade after settling.
- B4. Maintain the tree in a straight & plumb position while backfilling to no more than 1/2 the depth of the root ball.
- B5. Saturate the planting hole with water after backfill is 1/2 complete to aid removal of air from the backfill.
- B6. & B7. After initial backfill, watering, & the tree is plumb, complete backfill, saturate planting hole & adjust root ball (if necessary) to make tree straight & plumb, then remove the synthetic strap, any cardboard packaging, the top portion of the wire basket down to & including the first horizontal ring, and the burlap from the top portion of the root ball.
- B8. Complete the backfill & thoroughly saturate with water to aid removal of air from the backfill.
- B9. After backfill has substantially settled & the tree is straight & plumb, stake tree to provide stability until root system is thoroughly established. Check staking as needed to make sure that trunk damage does not occur & that tree & root ball are stable.
- B10. Mulch the area over the root ball to a depth no deeper than 1 1/2" to 2". Keep all mulch away from the trunk flare.



C. POST-PLANTING CARE

- C1. Mulch the area over the root ball to a depth no deeper than 1 1/2" to 2". Keep all mulch away from the trunk flare. Remove any old mulch before applying new mulch.
- C2. Monitor moisture in the root ball by probing the soil with a soil probe & manage the supplemental irrigation accordingly. Be careful not to over or under irrigate.
- C3. Completely remove all staking systems at the appropriate time to prevent trunk & stem damage.
- C4. Trees should be monitored for boring insects for the first year after installation. Preventative pesticide applications are recommended during the establishment period.
- C5. If for any reason trees need straightening after the above process, trees can be straightened by carefully digging out around the root ball, attaching seat belt strap to the part of the wire basket that is still intact around the root ball, & lifting. Never pull, push, or put pressure on the trunk. While it is not ideal from a cosmetic perspective, it is best for the health of the trees to wait until dormancy to straighten trees. The staking on these trees should be readjusted after straightening the trees.