



## 5 Steps to Planting a Tree

You've heard the saying 'It's better to plant a ten cent tree in a ten dollar hole than to plant a ten dollar tree in a ten cent hole'. The fine points of this statement may be arguable, but the idea is good. Proper tree planting and young tree care is critical to the future of any tree you are planting. Planting a tree is to plan 40-50 years or more into the future. It's important to do it right. To do it wrong may mean a tree that performs poorly, dies or worse may become a hazard sometime in the future. Follow these steps and you can have confidence your tree will thrive and become what you envision it to be.

**Step 1-** Dig a hole twice as wide as the rootball, but no deeper.

**Step 2-** Remove plant from the pot, cut slits down the side of the rootball about 2 inches apart and about 1/2" deep to eliminate circling roots.

**Step 3-** Place the tree in the hole so the rootball is about 1 inch higher than the surrounding soil elevation.

**Step 4** – Place native soil from hole back in the planting hole to fill it about 1/2. Place amended soil in the top half of the planting hole. Amended soil should be 1/4 Planting Compost or equal, and 3/4 site soil. Add Transplant Mix fertilizer to the backfill at recommended rates.

**Step 5** – Fill the basin with water and repeat once water has drained away. Build a temporary watering basin/well and mulch to basin with 2-3" of Planting Compost. Water daily for the first week.

### Water Care For your new Tree

#### First Year:

1. After planting and building a watering basin, fill the basin with water, applying at least 5 gallons of water.
2. Once the water has drained away, water it again with about 3 to 5 gallons of water and let drain again.
3. Again, water the tree with another 3 to 5 gallons of water. The purpose of this "three-time water regime" is to saturate the root ball, settle the soil backfill and wet the surrounding native soil.
4. We strongly recommend purchasing a tree watering bag. If you do, fill it up once a week through the first year of the tree's life. If you don't have a watering bag, we recommend applying 5 gallons of water at least 3 times a week.

#### Second Year:

1. Starting about 2 weeks after the last significant rain, start the watering regime again. Give the tree **10-20 gallons of water per week**.

#### Third Year:

1. By this time the tree roots have hopefully extended into the native soil to be more self-sustaining. However...we recommend a supplemental watering of at least 10-20 gallons per week.

