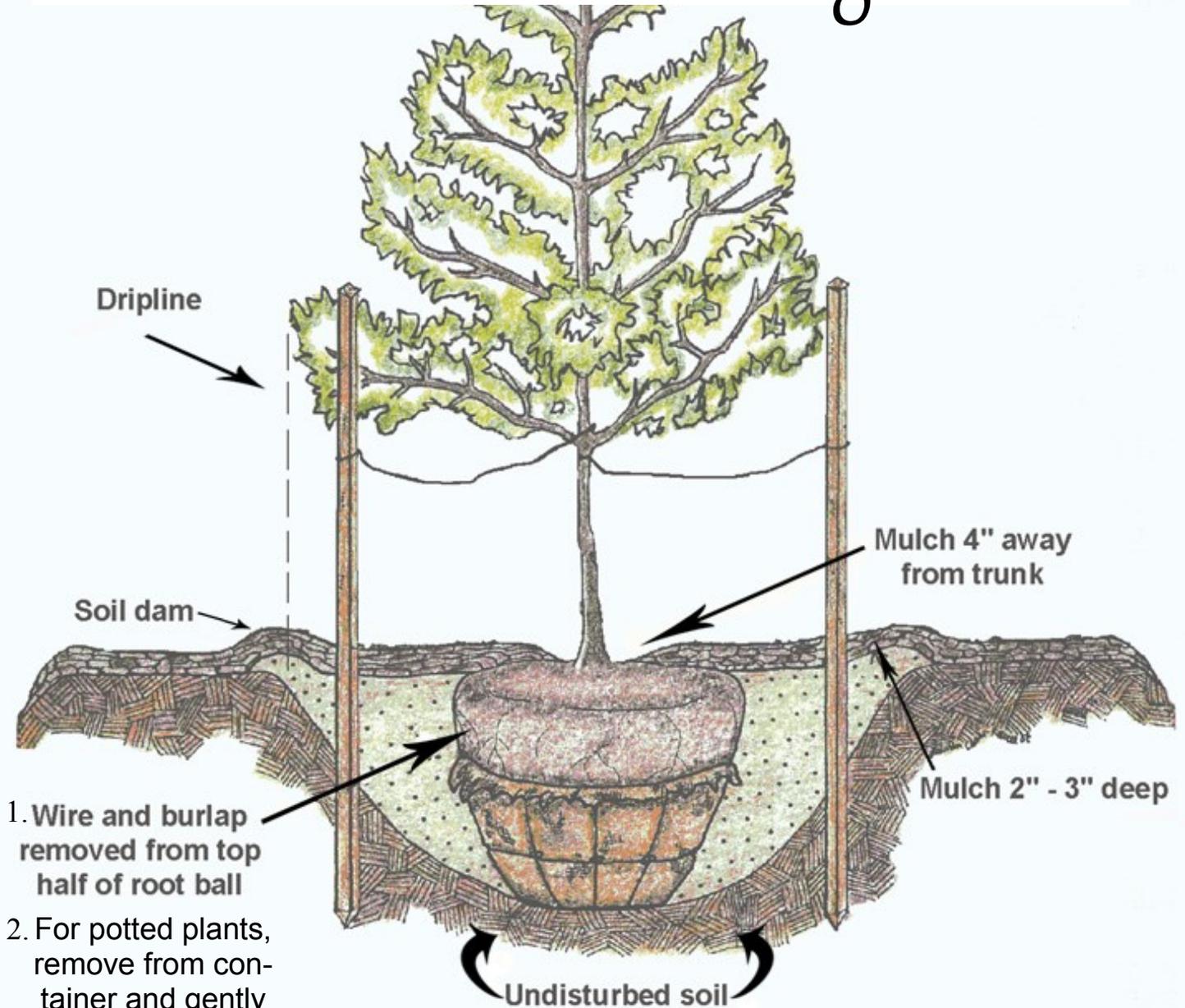


# Tree and Shrub Planting Guide



Dig hole 4-6" wider than the root ball all the way around, keep depth the same as pot depth to prevent settling

## Tree & Shrub Planting Guide

If possible plant your tree or shrub as soon as you get it home. Containerized plants dry quickly and a single missed watering can be detrimental to the health of the plant. Shrubs should be watered three hours before planting.

When selecting a location to plant shrubs, monitor available light levels and check soil conditions prior to planting to ensure optimum growing conditions.

Organic matter (compost) should be used sparingly. The ideal backfill material is the existing soil removed from the hole. If the soil is of poor quality Coast of Maine's Penobscot mix can be blended with the existing soil.

### PLANTING

1. Dig a hole at least 6" wider than the root mass all the way around. **Do not dig the hole too deep.** We recommend that the bottom of the hole be firm and undisturbed to prevent settling. When placed in the hole the trunk flare of the tree or root surface of a shrub should be slightly higher (1/2-1"), than ground level.
2. Carefully remove the plant from the container, without disturbing the rootball. Cut any circling roots if present. Place the root ball in the center of hole.
3. Backfill the hole 1/2 way up the root ball then water thoroughly and tamp lightly (do not pack) to remove any large air pockets. Complete backfilling and then water again deeply. If necessary suggested backfill material is **Penobscot Tree and Shrub Planting Mix** (1/2 bag for 2-5 gallon plants) mixed with soil excavated from hole.
4. Create a small berm of soil around the plant slightly larger than the root ball this will help concentrate your watering where it is most needed.
5. To conserve soil moisture add a **2-3" layer of bark mulch** around base of shrub. Do NOT allow mulch to be piled in contact with trunk surface.

### WATERING

**Proper watering is critical** to the health and success of any newly planted tree or shrub. Improper watering is the #1 cause of death for newly planted trees and shrubs. Newly planted trees and shrubs must receive adequate irrigation weekly during the first growing season. Container grown shrub roots tend to dry out quicker than the soil around them so it is crucial to monitor soil moisture. Weather conditions will also effect watering frequency, sunny, breezy weather will dry the soil quickly. Rainy, cool conditions will increase soil moisture. When watering is required soak thoroughly by allowing a hose to run slowly up to 20 minutes in the bermed area surrounding the shrub. This may be necessary once or twice a week depending on weather conditions. For trees we recommend the Bower & Branch watering system, please ask a staff member for more details.

### FERTILIZING

At the time of planting use Elements fertilizer to give your plant the best start possible.

