



Planting Trees & Shrubs in the Brazos Valley

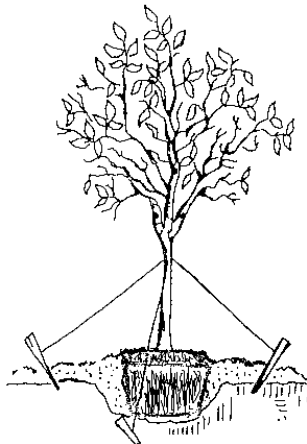
Buying a tree is one of the biggest investments you will make in your landscape. The following information will guide you when you are ready to plant your tree.

CONTAINERIZED PLANTING

We recommend the following procedure: Dig hole large enough to leave an eight to ten inch clearance around sides of root ball of the tree to be planted. Place 2 to 3 handfuls of gypsum at the base of the hole. Leave the top of the root area two to three inches above ground level. Fill back around the ball with the original soil to within six or eight inches of ground level.

Now, apply fertilizer tablets to this area. Chop or break up soil as much as possible. Fill back and water to settle soil. Mix topsoil and existing soil at a 1 to 1 ratio and fill the remainder of hole. The mixture should cover the entire top of ball and out to at least two or three feet from trunk of tree (refer to diagram).

Water well, use Ferti-lome Root Stimulator at the time of planting and repeat every 1-2 weeks for 6-8 weeks.



GENERAL TREE CARE

To conserve moisture and prevent weed growth, mulch newly planted are with two inches of pine bark mulch. Water well when watering to be sure that water soaks deep into the soil. Reduce frequent sprinkling which causes plant roots to grow too near the surface, thus weakening the tree. Trees should be fertilized twice a year, in early Fall and

again in the Spring. Do not fertilize newly planted plants for 4-6 months.

Fertilize using Ferti-lome Tree and Shrub Food. Feed fruit trees with a pecan and fruit tree fertilizer. Others should be fed with Ferti-lome Tree and Shrub Fertilizer. Always apply as directed and remember, too much is more harmful than too little or even none at all. Observe your trees often to detect insect or fungus problems. Quick action is the key to success here. Ask one of our TCNP for current recommendations.

Be sure to ask about our "Jack & the Beanstalk" Live Oak Fertilization Program.

STAKING TREES

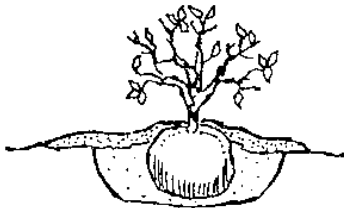
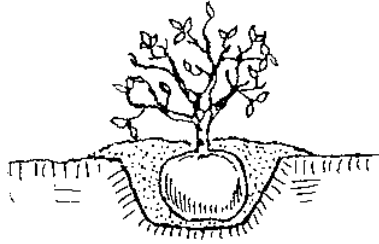
Normally, small trees do not need to be staked. Larger trees should be staked and an easy way to do this is with wired passed through a short length of water hose to be wrapped around the trunk of the tree and ties loosely. Run the wire in a 45 degree angle to a wooden stake or metal "Duckbill" driven in the soil. There should be three stakes at opposing angles from the tree to prevent being shaken by the wind and disturbing the root system. These stakes should remain on the tree for a full growing season and can then be removed. Trees should remain staked for 1-3 years depending on size at planting (see Tree planting diagram). Tree staking kits are available at our store.

SHRUBS

When buying your ornamental shrubs, consider the location and the amount of sun or shade the plants will receive, as well as if they should be tall or low growing. Check the drainage. If it is sluggish you will either have to correct it or choose plants that tolerate moist areas. With this information, your nursery person should then be able to help you make the correct selection of plants.

SHRUB PLANTING

When planting in prepared or raised beds, make the planting hole just deep enough to allow the top of the root ball to be at ground level. (Refer to shrub planting diagram 1) Width of hole is not too important when planting in good loose soil. Replace soil around the root ball and water well to force out air pockets and to settle new soil firmly around root ball. Level out surplus soil.



In unprepared beds or pit planting, make planting hole one foot larger in diameter than the diameter of the root ball. Leave top of ball about two inches above normal ground level. (Refer to Shrub diagram 2) Fill around the ball with original soil. Chop or break up soil as much as possible. Water in to settle soil. Mix one half Top Soil Mix with original soil and mound around exposed ball. Avoid planting shrubs in low, wet or slow draining areas. Correct poor drainage situations before planting or new plant material will die. This is especially true in local areas. Use Fertilome Root Stimulator when watering in. Repeat at 1 to 2 week intervals for 6 to 8 weeks. Following this procedure will hasten new root growth of the transplanted plants.

SHRUB CARE

Shrubs require more frequent irrigation than trees. Generally once a week in cool weather and every other day or so in hot weather, especially during times of drought. Non-blooming shrubs should be

fed in the spring and late fall with Fertilome Tree and Shrub Fertilizer. Blooming shrubs have specific feeding times and need specific fertilizers depending on their variety. See one of our Texas Certified Nursery Professionals for which one is best for your selection. Pruning is also variety specific, so again, ask for our recommendation.