PLANTING TREES AND SHRUBS

TYPES OF NURSERY STOCK

Bareroot
- Heel in plants if not planted immediately.
- Neatly cut away any broken or damaged roots. Soak for a few hours prior to planting to rehydrate.

Container-Grown
- Plastic or metal containers should be removed completely. Carefully cut through any circling roots. Remove top half of pressed peat/paper containers.

Balled-in-Burlap “B&B”
- Cut balling ropes. Pull burlap down at least 1/3 of the way; slit remaining burlap to encourage root growth. If in a wire basket, cut away top section.

The Perfect Planting Hole
- Partially backfill, water to settle soil, then finish backfilling hole
- Widen and score hole wall
- Leave solid soil pedestal
- Do not dig deeper than root ball depth
- Dig hole 2-3 times root ball width

Root Ball Area
- Unamended backfill soil (No peat, bark, sand, etc.)
- Area for water drainage (pipe or tile could be installed)

Your Finished Planting
- Remove tags and labels
- Do not stake trunk unless the tree has a large crown, or the planting is situated on a windy site or where people may push them over
- Stake for a maximum of one year
- Prune basal suckers
- Spread roots out over soil pedestal evenly before filling
- Do not prune terminal leader or branch tips
- Prune any codominant leaders or narrow crotch angles
- Prune rubbing or crossed branches
- Prune any broken branches
- Note: Evergreens rarely require staking!
- Add 2”-3” of mulch kept away from trunk
- Soak soil well, making sure no air pockets form between roots, then apply mulch.