

B & B PLANT MATERIAL PLANTING & CARE

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Your B&B (balled and burlapped) plants have been locally field grown to ensure that they are adapted to this area and ready to grow in your landscape. Here are a few planting tips to ensure the success of your new purchase.

1. Keep your plants watered before and after you plant:

Plants in rootballs are very sensitive to drying out. It may take quite a while for them to dry out if they are already wet, but when they do it can damage or kill the plant. After planting, keep your plants well watered throughout the first year (or few years). Watering in low volumes for longer periods of time is the most effective method of watering, and ensures that the water soaks into the rootball.

2. Plant as soon as possible:

The sooner you plant, the less chance there is of the plant drying out. If you must wait to plant, surround the rootball with a moisture retentive material, such as bark or sawdust, and keep it moist. Your plant will be much better off in the ground than above ground, so make a point to plant promptly.

3. Keep soil level at the same level as that on the rootball, or plant a little higher:

Planting too deep will cause lots of problems that can eventually kill a tree. You do not want to bury any amount of trunk; if it's above ground, keep it above ground. It can also be a good idea to plant a little higher, especially in loose soils. This will allow the plant to settle and still retain an acceptable planting height.

4. Keep the burlap on until the tree is in place!!

The burlap must be left on the rootball until it is safely situated in its final location- this is there to preserve the rootball and keep it intact. A broken rootball can cause serious injury or death to a plant. Once the tree is in place, you may gently pull the burlap away and either tuck it underneath the rootball or cut it away. Never leave exposed burlap above the soil line, as this will wick water out of the soil.

5. Cut the burlap/twine away from the plant trunk:

You do not want anything wrapped around the trunk of the tree! The top of the burlap is tied around the trunk of the tree with twine. Cut the twine, pull the burlap away from the trunk, and tuck it back around the rootball. Twine, wire, or anything similar will eventually grow into the trunk, cutting and gouging and cutting off circulation.

6. Standard planting procedures still apply:

It is the same as with planting anything else. Dig the hole one -and-a-half to two times wider than the rootball, and about the same depth. Mix compost or a good organic mix with the existing soil in the hole if you have poor or really heavy soil- about half and half (or less, but no more). For large areas or numerous plants it may be easier to amend all of the soil in the area rather than hole by hole. And most importantly, **KEEP IT WELL WATERED!**