

# How to Plant Shrubs and Trees

WE are committed to providing healthy plants to our customers. We recommend that you follow these guidelines in order to give YOUR plants the best possible start.



**Before you begin, to avoid cutting an underground wire or pipe,** call PUPS (Palmetto Utility Protection Services) to request that they mark underground utility wires, pipes, etc. This is a free service - **Call 811.**

**Match the tree or shrub with the site.** Keep in mind the mature size of the plant, moisture in the soil, and sun requirements. Consider areas of your landscape that receive the afternoon sun to be “full sun” areas, even if they are shaded in the morning. “Shade plants” need afternoon shade in the summer.

**Dig the planting hole** roughly 2 times wider than the diameter of the root ball. Measure from the topmost root to the base of the root ball to determine its height. Dig no deeper or slightly less deep than the height of the root ball. The hole should be bowl-shaped with the sides sloped. Save the soil. **The worst mistake is to plant too deep.** To avoid that problem, do not cultivate the bottom of the hole because it may cause the root ball to settle. (**Exception:** In clay soil, dig 3 to 4 inches deeper and cultivate bottom of hole).

**Clay Soil:** If your soil type is **clay**, amend the soil dug from the hole by mixing with an equal amount of *Wingard's Lake Murray Soil Conditioner* to promote drainage and aeration. Add *Bio-tone Starter Plus 4-3-3* to maximize root growth.

**Sandy Soil:** If the soil type is **sand**, amend the soil dug from the hole by mixing with an equal amount of *Wingard's Lake Murray Premium Potting Mix* to provide nutrients and hold moisture. Add *Bio-tone Starter Plus 4-3-3* to maximize root growth.

**Score, or cut the sides of the rootball** in 3 or 4 places, from top to bottom, about 1 inch deep to encourage roots to grow outward.

**When planting a TREE,** remove any twine or strapping after placing in the hole, but do not remove burlap or wire basket. If there is a wire basket around the root ball, push wire below ground level or cut top 3 inches off. Do not break up the root ball; however, if a tree was grown in a container, score the roots before planting.

**Place plant in the hole** so that the top of the root ball is slightly higher than the surrounding soil level. Backfill amended soil removed from hole. Tamp soil around plant firmly, and cover exposed roots above ground.

**Form a one-to-two-inch berm of soil** around the edge of the planting hole to hold water. Fill the “saucer” with water once or twice.

**Mulch the root ball surface and planting area.** Use 3 to 4 inches of organic material. Keep the mulch 1 or 2 inches away from the trunk.

**Water.** When newly planted, during the first two weeks, check soil moisture level daily by digging down 6 inches to see if soil is moist below ground level. Water thoroughly if soil is dry; be sure water is getting down through the soil to the roots of the plant. Clay soil needs proper drainage; sandy soil dries out quickly.



**Water (continued)** Generally, water once a week in winter and 3 times a week in summer until a new plant is well established. However, remember watering frequency depends on many factors like rainfall, temperature, and soil type. Check the underground soil moisture level frequently, and adjust your watering schedule accordingly. Keep in mind that lawn sprinkler systems are designed for grass roots, which are 3 to 4 inches deep. Trees and shrubs have roots that are 1 ft. deep or more, and need more water than a lawn sprinkler can provide.

**Fertilize** appropriately. When planting a tree or shrub, add *Espoma Bio-tone Starter Plus 4-3-3* to the soil to maximize root growth. Fertilize after the first year and once a year thereafter with a tree and shrub fertilizer (19-8-10).

When transplanting trees and shrubs, use **Ferti-lome Root Stimulator** to reduce transplant shock and stimulate root growth.

**Disease and Insect Infestations.** If you suspect a problem with insects or fungus, clip off a leaf or small branch and bring it to the nursery. We will help you identify the problem and choose the right treatment.

**When to Plant.** The very best time of year to plant, in terms of root growth and plant establishment, is during the fall. Because of milder temperatures and increased rain, the transition from pot to ground is a bit easier. Spring and summer are acceptable for planting as long as appropriate watering occurs. Basically, if you can dig the hole, you can plant; the ground never freezes significantly here.

## Watering Trick

Use a 5-gal. bucket with a 1/8" hole in the bottom to slowly water a tree by placing it on top of the mound at the dripline and filling it with water.



## Our Goal Is To Provide You Professional Service!

In addition to our in-store expertise on how to plant and care for trees and shrubs, our website offers helpful advice in the form of videos and guides. Check them out at [www.wingardsmarket.com](http://www.wingardsmarket.com). Go to Wingard's TV Gardening Videos and Garden Center/ Plant Specifics.



### Guarantee & Return Policy

If a tree or shrub purchased here dies within one year from the date of purchase, it must be returned with the original sales receipt for store credit only; both the plant and the receipt are required. This warranty excludes Acts of God, man and nature, such as extreme weather, improper planting and watering, and infestations of insects, mammals or fungus that occur after planting, and applies to container grown material only (up to 15 gallon size), and excludes "balled and burlapped" trees and shrubs (i.e., over 15 gallon containers). The tree or shrub will be replaced only once and plants on sale are not warranted.

Perennials carry the same guarantee as trees and shrubs, except for only 30 days from date of purchase. There is no guarantee on annuals.

Produce is guaranteed to be fresh. If you purchase fresh produce and find that it is not of the quality you expected, you may return it for a replacement, along with your receipt.

Returns require a receipt and the returned product. There are no returns on discounted merchandise.

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*The information presented in this brochure is a combination of techniques Wingard's Market has found to be successful and information published by Clemson University's Sandhill Research and Education Center, and the SC Forestry Commission.*



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at Wingard's."*



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