

Important Things to Remember When Planting Container and Burlaped Trees

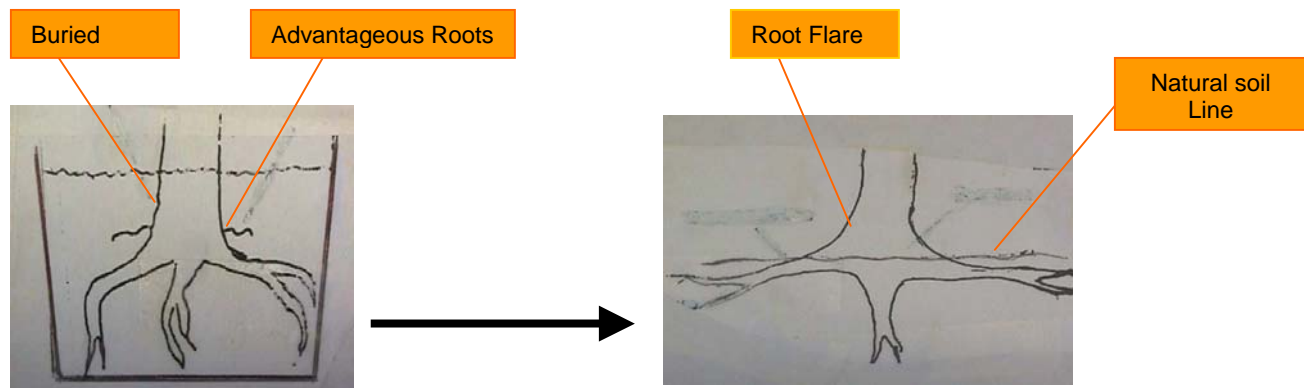
The Most common cause of tree decline after twenty to thirty years is improper planting. The most common mistake is planting trees too deep. Most nursery trees, whether they are potted or burlaped are covered with excess soil (2 to 3 inches above the root flare or root collar) This is the area at the base of the tree where the main stem can be **seen** flaring out before it enters the ground.

Trees planted with the root flare covered with soil will, in time, develop advantageous roots above the root flare. These advantageous roots will inevitably grow around the base of the base of the main stem and strangle the tree. This condition is called girdling root.

To prevent this future decline in tree health and consequential death, it is most important to first remove all excess soil above the root flare in potted and burlaped trees. Furthermore, potted and burlaped trees, when growing in these containers for a short time, will become root bound. The roots will grow around this confinement and further stimulate the development of girdling roots. If the tree is still dormant, the planter should shake all the soil loose from the tree's root system, and then spread the roots laterally in a natural radius around in the hole dug for the tree. All advantageous roots presently growing above the root flare should be removed.

When preparing the tree planting site, it is important **not** to loosen the soil below the planting since this soil will eventually settle and force the tree roots deeper into the ground, thus burning the main stem.

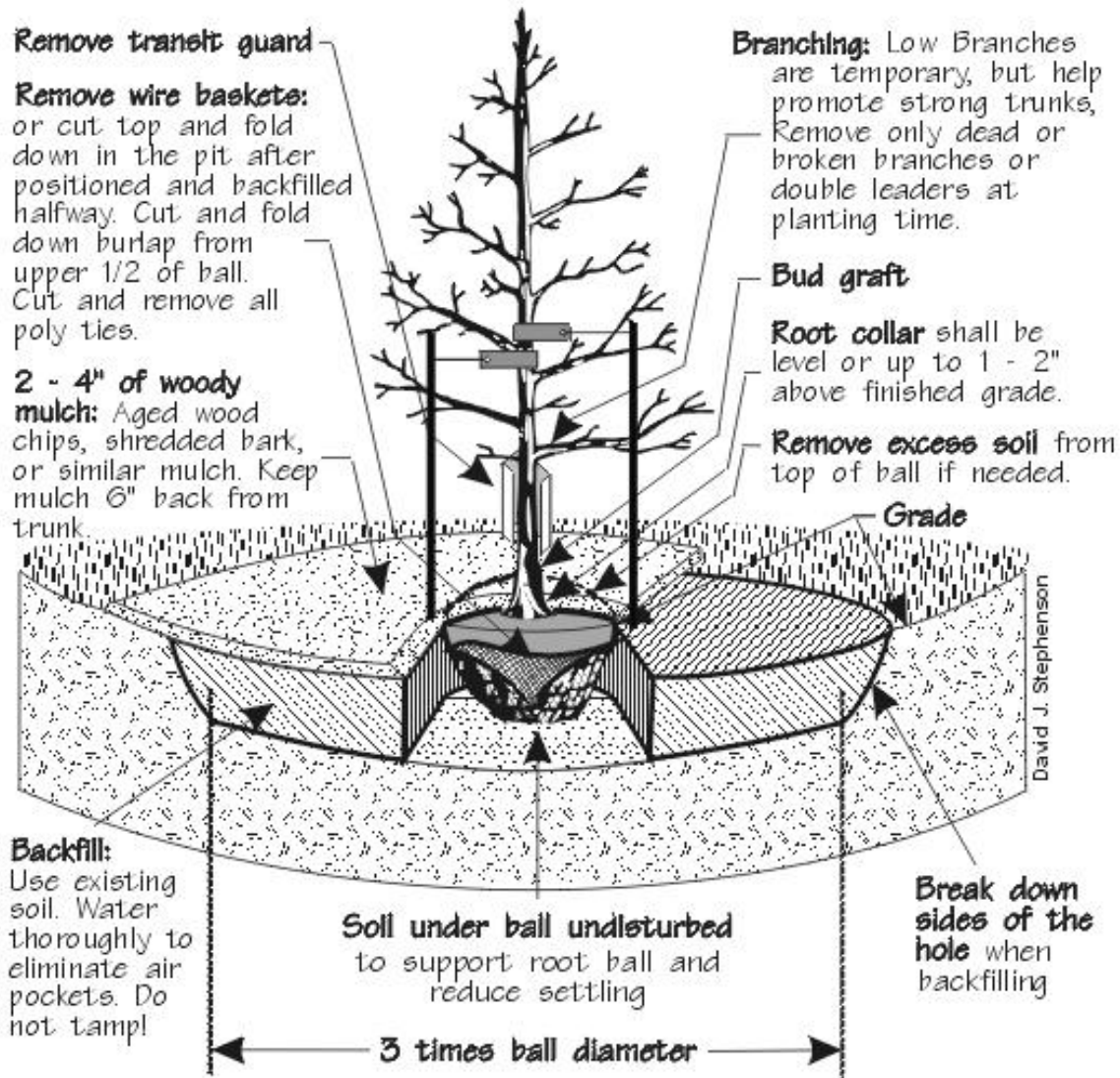
Staking the tree will be necessary since the tree roots are naturally shallow in the planting hole. These support stakes will need to be in place for only one year to allow enough root development to provide enough anchorage. After one year the tree stakes should be remove.



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Proper Tree Planting Diagram



Stake only if you have to. Use 3"-wide webbing straps and secure to stakes with heavy gauge wire. The wire should be able to stick straight out from the stake and hold the webbing strap up, preventing it from sliding down the tree. Do not stake tightly - trees gain strength from movement. Remove all stakes after one year.

Use of tree wrap is not recommended, as it causes a number of problems for the tree.

Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Urban and Community Forestry
10.99

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