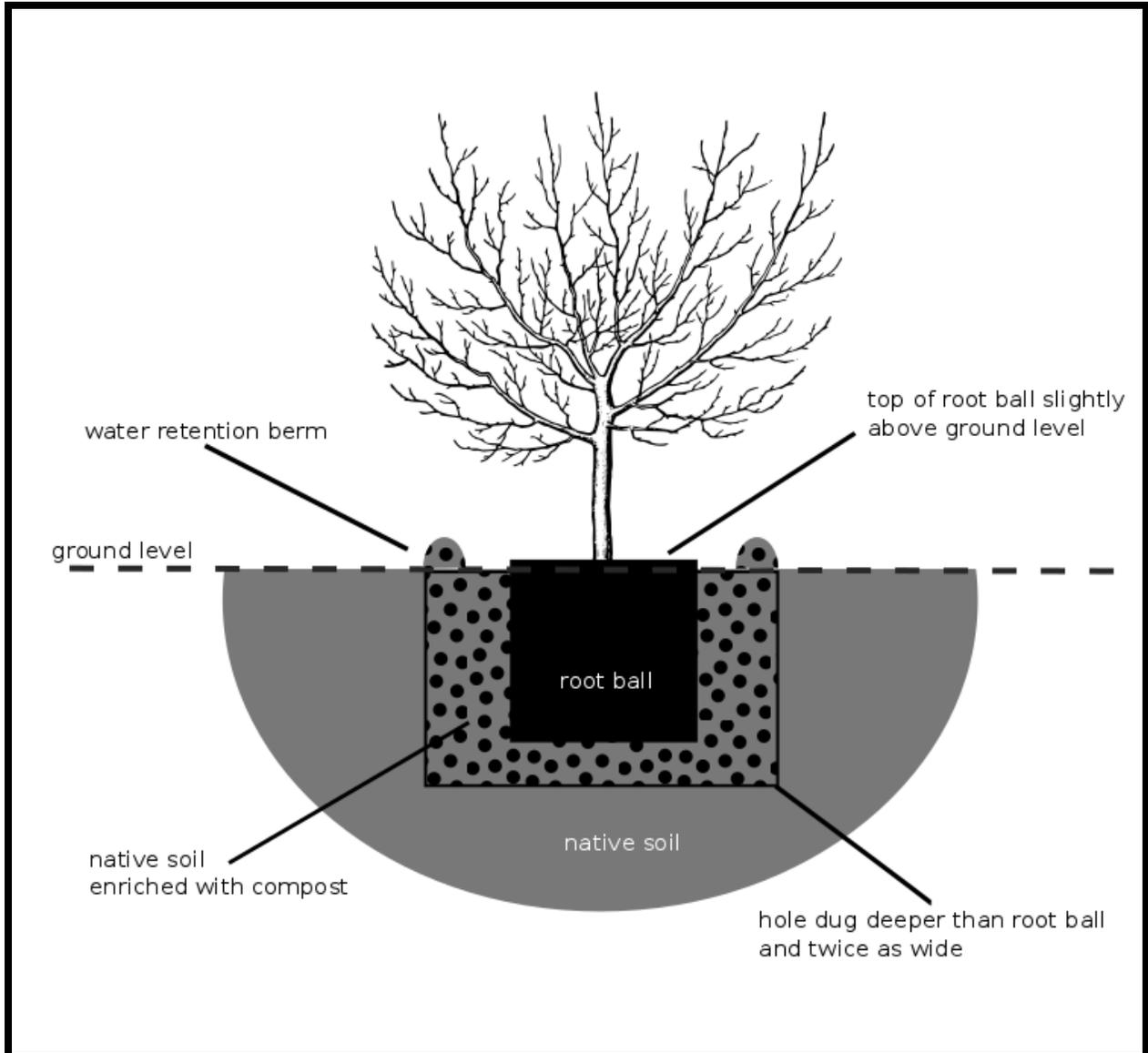


Planting Instructions



8 April 2017

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Dig the Hole

Dig an oversized hole—twice as wide as the root ball and one and half times as deep. If the soil is dry, pre-soak the hole thoroughly with a garden hose.

Enrich the Soil

You should now have a pile of soil next to the hole. Blend compost into the soil to create an enriched planting mix. We use composted cow manure, available in 40 pound bags, but any good quality compost will work. Use half a bag for a small shrub and 2-3 bags or more for a large tree. In poor quality soil, use more compost, up to a 50:50 blend of compost and native soil.

Remove the Pot

Turn the pot on its side or upside down and press gently on the sides until the plant slides out. If roots are tightly bound in the pot, use a knife to make light cuts in the sides and bottom of the root ball.

Note that balled and burlapped (B&B) plants should be placed in the hole with the burlap, twine and wire cage (if present) completely intact. Removing the wrapping may damage the roots.

Position the Root Ball and Fill the Hole

Fill and pack planting mix in the bottom of the hole. Measure the level and adjust as needed before placing the plant in the hole.

Place the root ball so that the top of the ball is slightly higher than the ground level. The crown—where the stem meets the roots—should be just a bit above the surrounding soil, never deeper.

Fill the hole with the planting mix up to the crown. Lightly tamp the planting mix as you fill. Use running water from a garden hose to help pack the soil and remove air pockets. Make sure the plant stays upright in the hole.

For B&B plants, carefully cut away any twine and burlap from the stem and top of the root ball after filling the hole. Any wrapping left underground will disintegrate quickly.

Build a Water Retention Berm

Use leftover planting mix to build a saucer-shaped ring several inches high around the outside of the root ball. This berm helps funnel water to the roots and prevents runoff.

Apply Mulch

Apply a 2-4 inch layer of mulch. Keep the mulch back several inches from the base of the plant. Don't allow soil or mulch to pile up around the crown.

Water Diligently!

Water diligently *throughout the establishment period*. For shrubs and trees, the establishment period is usually 1-2 full years.

Water deeply 2-3 times a week or as needed during the growing season. Roots should begin to dry a little between waterings, but *plants must never be allowed to dry to the point of wilting*.

Deep watering promotes deep root growth. Deep roots make plants more resilient to summer drought and cold winter temperatures. At each watering, apply 3-5 gallons for a small shrub and 10-15 gallons or more for a large tree.

Apply water slowly to avoid runoff. It's best to use a garden hose turned down to a slow pencil stream. Let the hose run long enough to apply the necessary amount of water.

Never rely on automated sprinkler systems for establishment watering. Hand watering with a hose or bucket is the best way to ensure adequate moisture for new plantings.