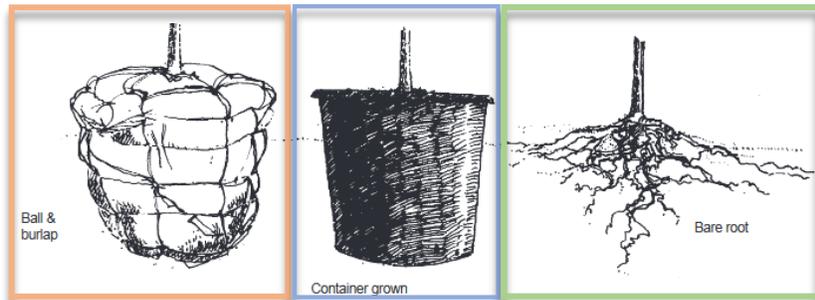


Step 1: Match right plant to right location—see Right Plant, Right Place fact sheet.

Step 2: Dig the hole

- The planting hole should be no deeper than the depth of the roots and twice as wide. (The top of the roots or the “root flare” should be level or slightly above level with the surface of the ground when planted.)
- Do not loosen the soil underneath where the roots go, otherwise, when the soil compacts from the weight of the plant, it will likely sink deeper into the ground.
- Contrary to popular advice, do NOT add organic matter, fertilizer, compost, or any other “amendments” to the planting hole. Doing so will prevent roots from expanding beyond its hole, inhibiting normal development of roots needed for long-term growth.

Step 3: Determine if your plant is “Balled and burlapped” (B&B), “Container Grown,” or “Bare Root”, as the directions for each are somewhat different.* Follow the directions below for the correct one.



Balled and Burlapped (B&B)	Container Grown	Bare Root
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only lift shrub by rootball to avoid physical stress on trunk. • Keep soil ball wet, ensuring it does not dry out. • Lower rootball into the hole so the root flare is at soil level • Avoid breaking or cracking soil around roots within the burlap. • Once plant is in the hole at the right orientation, remove wire or cords around the trunk and rootball and cut burlap loose. • You must cut away at least 12” (remove 100% of burlap if you can) from top of rootball. • Backfill with soil. Use water to settle soil into any voids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide the plant out of pot or cut container down the sides to free the root system. • If roots are slightly pot-bound, use fingers to loosen and tease roots apart as much as viable. • If root system is tightly pot-bound, use a utility knife to make four, equally-spaced, 1”-deep cuts down length of the rootball from top to bottom. • Use pruners to remove any circling (girdling) roots. • Lower rootball into the hole so that root flare is at soil level. • Backfill with soil. Use water to settle soil into any voids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant as soon as possible. • Never let roots dry out. Keep them damp until planted (e.g., with moistened paper towels or potting mix). • Inspect roots: prune any dead, diseased, broken, twisted, or excessively long ones. • Hole should be deep enough for 3-4” of mounded soil beneath the center of the root system and allow roots to fully extend around soil mound. • Place in hole, spreading roots out, and backfill with soil. • Water and firm up (but do not <i>pack</i>) soil on roots, to eliminate air pockets and voids.

Step 4: Mulch over entire dug-up area, except 2-3” around stem (to prevent rotting).

Step 5: Water thoroughly. New plants will need extra water as they establish, which generally takes two years for shrubs and three years for trees.