

How to Install Your Trees and Shrubs Properly FACT SHEET 59

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Now that you have the plant that is right for you put it in the right place by learning about the plant before planting it. Find out from UF/IFAS sources.

- How tall does it get?
- How much sun does it need?
- What purpose will it serve in the yard (beauty, screening, ground cover, etc)?
- Try to place your plant with other plants that need similar amounts of water?

Planting Pointers

- ❖ Decrease sun stress by planting late in the day or on a cloudy day.
- ❖ Water the plant well prior to planting. Soaking the plant in a bucket of water works well.
- ❖ Dig a hole the depth of the root ball and 2 to 3 times as wide to allow room for root expansion. Fill the hole with water to soak the soil.
- ❖ Do not hold the plant by the stem which could cause tissue damage allowing entry of pathogens.
- ❖ Roots should be untangled and all “circling roots” straightened out. If the plant is root bound the roots may require a cut down the sides to open them up. Roots prefer to grow laterally from plant rather than straight down so spread roots out as much as possible.
- ❖ Place plant into prepared hole with top of plant slightly ABOVE soil line.
- ❖ Replace original soil around roots. Do not fill the hole with other things like potting soil, Black Kow, etc.
- ❖ Time release fertilizer may be added to the soil as it is added back to the planting hole.
- ❖ Do not compress earth around roots, rather pour water over soil and allow water to fill dirt in around roots.
- ❖ A circle of raised soil can be made outside the area of the roots to help contain water over the roots during future watering.
- ❖ Mulch area with exception of 2 inches next to stem or trunk.
- ❖ Maintain a watering schedule. Water every day for the first week and decrease to every other day for the second week. Do not water if it rains that day, then resume the watering schedule. The required amount of water per plant is about a gallon per application every 4 to 8 days for common sized nursery material (3 gallon pot).

For further information check out these documents or call the Alachua County Extension Office, 955-2402 to speak with a Master Gardener.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep390> (planting shrubs)

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP391>. (watering shrubs)

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/documents/EP314.pdf> (planting trees)