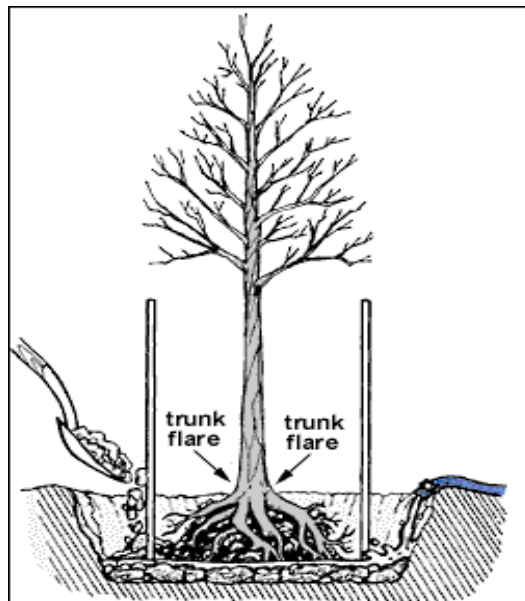


Preparing the Planting Site

- Contact Holey Moley (within Indiana-1-800-382-5544) to locate any underground utilities before you dig.
- If possible, prepare the site before you bring in the tree.
- Keep the root ball well watered and keep the tree in a shaded place until you are ready to plant.
- It is imperative to determine the trunk flare on each balled and burlaped tree before the planting site is dug so that the depth of the planting site can be properly measured.
- The trunk flare is the point where roots begin to branch from the trunk. (*The top of the root ball is not always the trunk flare.*)
- Measure the height from the base of the trunk flare to the bottom of the root ball.
- Dig to the depth of the trunk flare.
- Dig the space at least 2 times the diameter of root ball.
- Break up compacted soil. Sides of the planting space should not be packed. Leave the bottom of the space firm.
- Remove the bottom of basket with wire cutters.
- Lift the tree into planting space by the root ball, not the trunk.
- Remove the burlap from the immediate trunk area of the tree. (*Remove top 1/3 of burlap as a minimum.*)
- Pull back the excess soil around the trunk of tree to locate the trunk flare.
- The trunk flare and top of root ball should be at or slightly above grade.
- Do not amend the soil unless planting in building rubble or severely disturbed soil.



How to Plant a Tree

<input type="checkbox"/>	Lift tree into planting space by the root ball, not the trunk.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Balance the tree upright in center of planting space.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cut away strings, burlap and plastic, exposing the root ball.
<input type="checkbox"/>	For trees in wire baskets, remove the rest of the wire basket by vertically wire cutting the basket and peeling the basket off.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If the tree is container grown, cut and remove the container.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prune dead or crushed roots and straighten or cut circling roots. Make clean cuts.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Never plant too deep. The trunk flare and top of root ball should be at grade. (<i>Trunk flare may be hidden within the root ball.</i>) Fill soil up to the tree base to where roots begin to branch from the trunk.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Begin refilling with soil up to where the trunk flare begins to branch, watering as you fill to firmly set tree. Gently tamp.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prune only dead or injured branches. Do not paint wounds.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove tree wrap, tape and string from the trunk. Trunks should be wrapped only to protect them in transit to planting site.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pour five to ten gallons of water slowly around the tree so that it all soaks in.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stake and brace the tree, if necessary. Support the tree but allow it to move or sway.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mulch evenly with 2" of composted material at least to the diameter of crown of tree. Leave 1-2" circle of bare soil around the trunk. Deep layers of mulch can be harmful.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do not fertilize the tree for at least one year.