

Wire Basket Removal Process

- Remove twine and open the burlap from around the trunk area of the tree. Pull back the excess soil around the trunk to locate the root flare and main order roots.
- Measure the distance from the base of the root flare to the bottom of the root ball to determine the depth of the planting hole.
- Dig the planting hole to this depth and at least two times the diameter of the root ball wide.
- Before the tree is placed in the planting hole, use bolt cutters to remove the bottom of the basket cutting the basket horizontally. This is also a good time to remove the bottom portion of burlap if the root ball is structurally sound.
- Roll the tree into the planting hole by the root ball, not the trunk. Be careful not to break off the connection between the roots and trunk.
- Balance the tree upright, straight and center. Visually check from two opposing 90 degree sides for straightness. Make any adjustments using shovels to position the root ball for straight trunk orientation. Do not make adjustments by manipulating the trunk.
- Use bolt cutters to remove the rest of the wire basket by cutting the basket vertically and peeling off the basket.
- Remove any remaining package material including twine, strings, burlap, staples, nails, or plastic, exposing the root ball.

Tree Staking Process (when necessary)

- Staking should use either a two or three-point support system.
- Any staking mechanism should be flexible enough to allow the stem and root system to develop strength. Attach the tree to either wood or metal stakes (2" X 2" X 6') with wide plastic or nylon straps.
- If a guy wire/rope is used it should be placed through hose material around each tree then twisted to secure the tree in a relatively stable position.
- The strap or wire/rope should be secured to each stake at an approximately right angle.

Note: Stakes must not be driven through the root ball. The guys and stakes should be maintained for the duration of the contract. Trees should be checked periodically to insure that the trunks are not being damaged or girdled. All materials used to support trees should be removed and disposed of after one year, except as otherwise directed for trees requiring additional bracing time.