

Proper Planting Technique: **BARE ROOT TREES**

The Root Collar or Root Flare is evident as a swollen area between the stem and roots. The top of the root flare is below the ground.

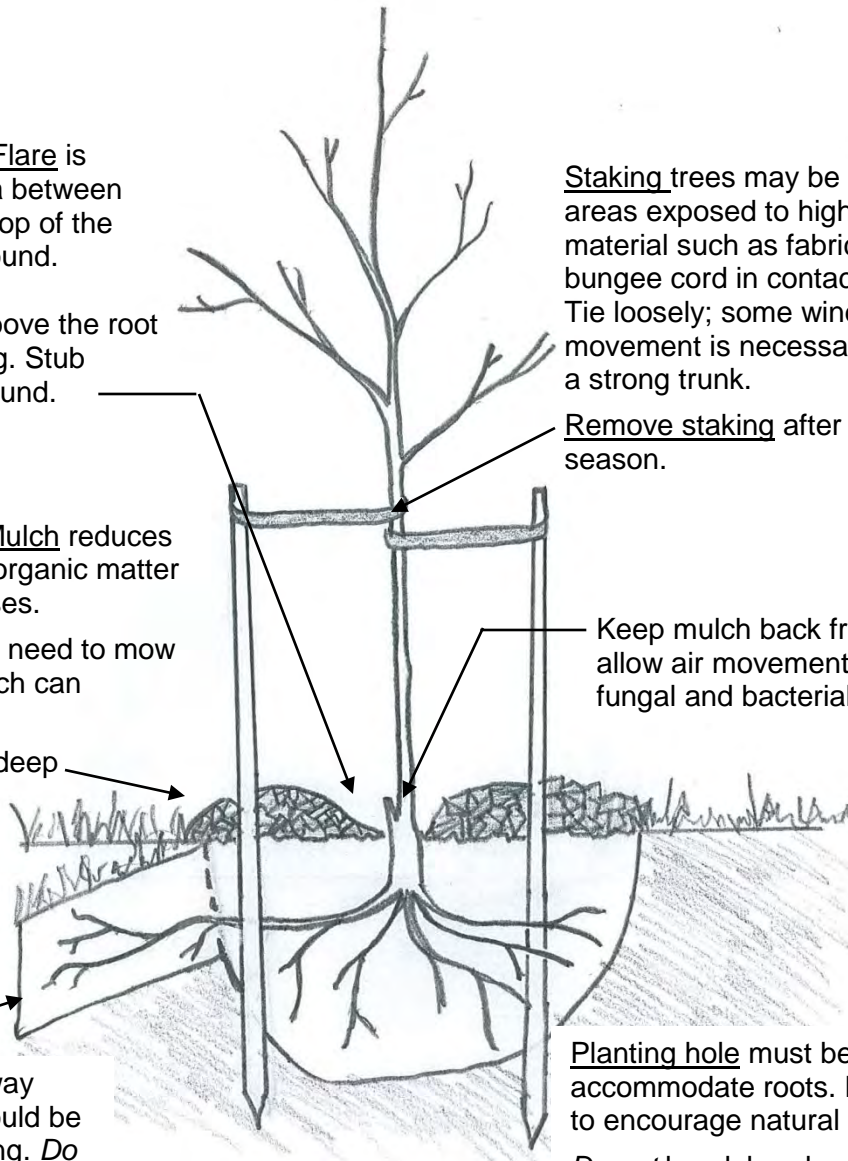
Often a stub is left just above the root flare from nursery pruning. Stub should just above the ground.

Composted Wood Chip Mulch reduces soil water loss and adds organic matter to the soil as it decomposes.

Mulch also eliminates the need to mow or trim near the trunk which can damage the bark

Mulch should be 2" to 4" deep

Long Roots that extend away from the main root ball should be accommodated by trenching. *Do not* cut back long feeder roots.



Staking trees may be considered in areas exposed to high winds. Use soft material such as fabric, rubber hose or bungee cord in contact with the trunk. Tie loosely; some wind stress and trunk movement is necessary for developing a strong trunk.

Remove staking after 1st or 2nd growing season.

Keep mulch back from the trunk to allow air movement that prevents fungal and bacterial growth.

Planting hole must be large enough to accommodate roots. Feather out roots to encourage natural root structure.

Do not bend, break or curl the roots to accommodate the planting hole.

KEEP BARE ROOTS COOL and MOIST. Wrap roots in wet burlap, towels or blankets during transport and cover with tarp, covered truck or covered trailer to keep the sun from heating up roots.

PLANT YOUR BARE ROOT TREE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. If you can't plant immediately, temporarily plant or 'heal in' the tree in a garden area until you are able to plant it in its final location.

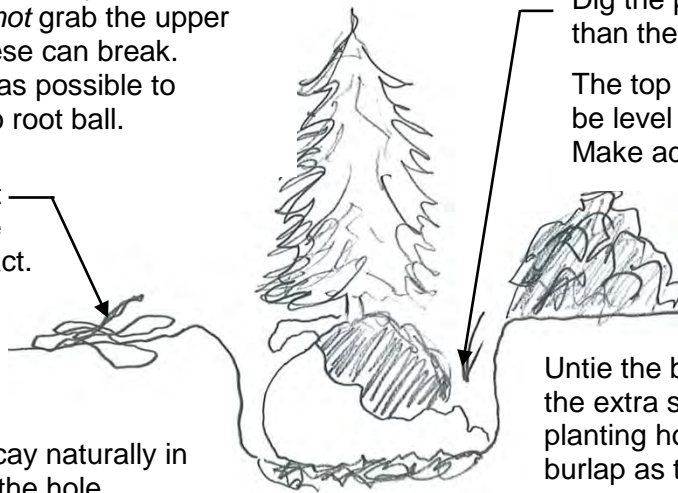
PROTECT YOUR TREE from rodent and rabbit damage with a plastic tree wrap or tree guard.

Proper Planting Technique: **BALLED & BURLAPPED TREES**

Use the twine wrapping to carry the tree in an upright position. *Do not* grab the upper stem or branches as these can break. Handle the tree as little as possible to minimize disturbance to root ball.

Once depth is good, cut or untie and remove the twine. Leave burlap intact.

Burlap will decay naturally in the bottom of the hole



Dig the planting hole no deeper than the root ball but slightly wider.

The top of the root ball should be level with the ground. Make adjustments if necessary.

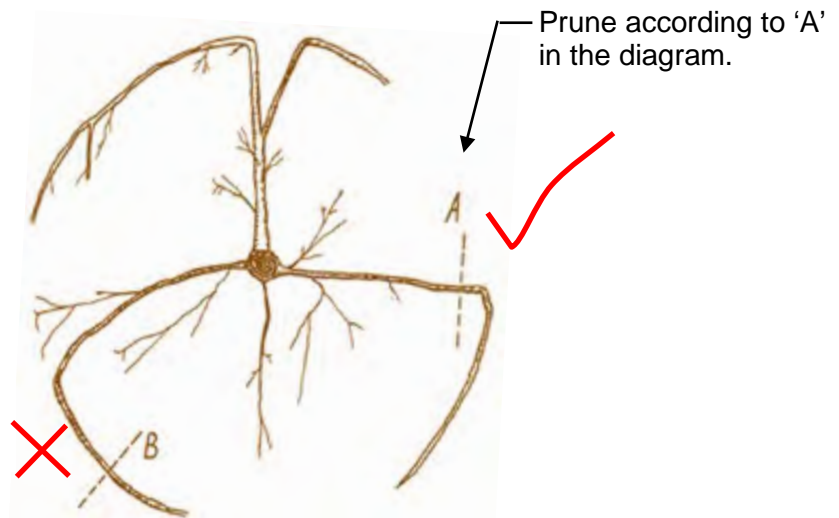
Untie the burlap and tuck it down in to the extra space at the sides of the planting hole. Do not remove the burlap as this will disturb the root ball.

POTTED TREES

To remove the tree from the pot, place the tree and pot on its side and pull gently. If the tree does not pull out easily it may be necessary to cut a slit down one side and to the bottom of the pot.

Root pruning is often necessary to correct pot circling roots. If left unpruned pot bound roots will continue to grow and eventually girdle the main roots. This can lead to tree decline and death years or decades after planting.

Cut 'B' will not help anything, and roots will simply regrow crooked and in the same pattern as previously



Prune according to 'A' in the diagram.

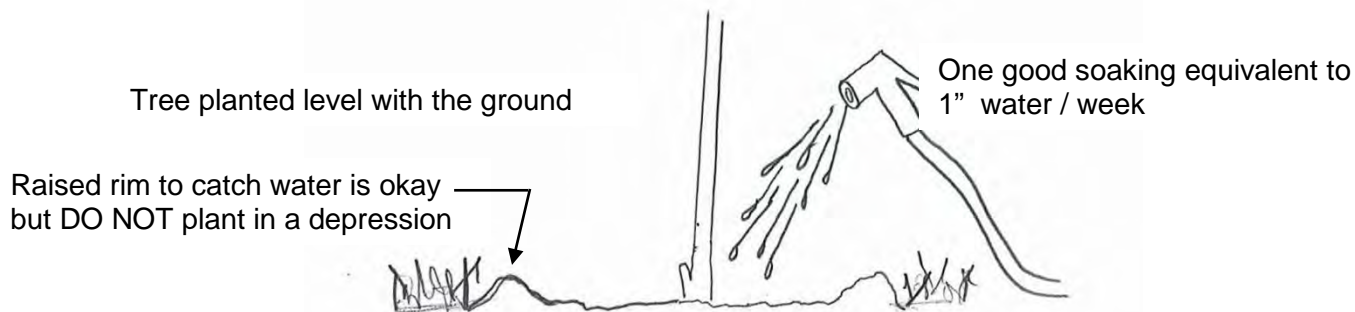
TRANSPORT and STORAGE

- A covered truck or trailer are best, however, if not available a tarp can be used to shelter the trees during transport.
- Store ball and burlap stock outside, sheltered from winds that will dry out the root ball.
- Check the root balls every couple of days and water as needed. Ensure the rooting medium remains moist during storage.

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Tree Planting Program

PLANTING YOUR TREE

1. Prior to backfilling, break up the soil until crumbly. At this stage you may add triple mix or composted organic matter. Mix well with native soil prior to backfilling.
2. Gently feather the crumbly soil around and under the roots in a natural position. *Do not* bunch the roots together at the bottom of the hole.
3. Before backfilling with soil make adjustments to correct planting depth so that the root collar is at or just below the ground. Hold the trunk to keep it straight and use your feet to pack the soil and eliminate air pockets. Firm root-soil contact is required for absorption of water and nutrients.
4. Use extra soil or sod to create a low rim at the edge of the planting hole. When you water the rim will prevent water from running away from the tree.
5. Following backfilling, water each tree until it pools on the surface, let it soak in and then water again until pooling. Watering reduces transplant shock and further settles the soil.



Watering tip: A five-gallon pail will deliver approximately one inch of water to one square yard.

WATERING

- Depending on soil texture and drainage, newly transplanted trees require between one and two inches of rainfall or water equivalent per week for optimum growth.
- One good soaking per week is better than frequent light watering.
- Check your soil to ensure tree is getting adequate water by digging six inches (15 cm) deep near the edge of the roots. Too little, or too much water and your tree will suffer. If the soil is moist, delay watering for a couple of days. If the soil is dry and cracked, the tree needs water.
- More frequent watering will be required on rapidly drained sandy or gravelly soils. Less water will be necessary on poorly drained clays.
- Watering trees is most critical during the first two years following transplanting.
- Composted Wood Chip Mulch reduces soil water loss, cools soil temperatures and adds organic matter to soil as it decomposes. Two inches, to no more than four inches, of mulch is recommended.
- Do not water during periods of municipal water restriction or prohibition. Mulch trees to promote the retention of soil moisture during dry spells or periods of water restriction.

FERTILIZER

New trees need time to 'settle in' and recover their root system prior to adding any fertilizer. Trees do not usually require fertilizer for good growth in our soils. A slow-release fertilizer may be considered a year or more following transplanting.