



# PLANTING

Proper planting is the first step in creating a healthy, sustainable landscape. Follow the steps below to insure you're giving your plant the best chance at getting established. When in doubt, reach out with any questions you might encounter!



## DIG A HOLE

Dig a hole about 2 times the size (or at least one foot wider) than the diameter of the plant's root ball.

## STIMULATE THE ROOTS

Remove your plant from its black, plastic pot & score the roots. It's usually easiest to use a knife to make a few vertical slits in the root ball to stimulate the roots. You can then just use your hands to break up the roots a little bit more. If you don't do this, there's a chance that the roots will just keep growing around in a circle because the tree will think it's still in the pot. You just want to kind of 'wake up' the plant and let it know that it can start sending roots down into the ground.

## PLANT

Plant so that the soil that was in the pot is about level with the existing ground. Be sure to not plant it too high or too deep in the hole. When you mulch, be sure to not pile the mulch too high around the plant. Be sure to not place mulch on tree/shrub trunks as this can place unnecessary stress on the plant.

## WATER

Water the plant well after installation. Give trees and shrubs about 5-10 gallons of water right after planting, then as needed in the days/weeks following. During droughts, you will need to water a more than usual. **Always** check the soil around the plant before watering. Stick your finger in the soil at the base of the plant and if it's wet or moist, refrain from watering. Overwatering is one of the most common causes of plant death.

