

# CUT SHEET INFORMATION

## TREE PLANTING PROCEDURE

These general procedures apply to various planting conditions and tree sizes.

- Do not remove tree from container until you're ready to place into planting hole. Fine roots dry out rapidly when exposed to air.
- The planting hole should be dug at least 2 to 5 times the diameter and the same depth as the root ball or soil in the container.
- The sides of the hole should be slightly sloped inward and should be roughened to increase root penetrability into surrounding soil. Trees should sit on a pedestal or small hump of undisturbed soil to minimize settling and facilitate drainage.
- All containers, burlap, wire and any rope or string should be removed prior to planting. With the tree in place, the roots can be spread out naturally. Check for circling roots and reject those trees with them.
- The planting hole should be backfilled with the same soil that was removed unless it is clay from basement excavation or other undesirable fill material. In that case, blend together one part washed sand to 4 parts sand loam, or bring in as much good topsoil as possible. Tamp gently and add water to fill large air spaces. Do not use excessive tamping around tree base; compacted soil may inhibit the spread of roots. The back soil should be lightly packed when the hole is half full. Water can be slowly added at this time to saturate and settle the soil. Finish filling the hole to original grade and water again.
- Mulch with a maximum of 4 inches of coarse organic mulch covering a circle that extends a minimum of 3 feet out from the trunk on all sides. The mulch should be pulled back 3 inches from the trunk. Tree grates are not generally recommended but may be necessary under special conditions.
- The tree should be staked only if it is not capable of supporting itself. Stakes are then anchored in native soil and are to be removed after one year. Use soft ties to prevent bark damage, keep the stake out of the tree limbs, and allow the staked tree 4 to 6 inches of movement.

## WATERING REQUIREMENTS

- Adequate water is essential at planting time. Place water hose at base of tree and allow water to slowly trickle until soil is saturated. The following watering schedule may be utilized with adjustments made during prolonged periods of rain or drought:
  - Initial watering after planting: Root zones should be slow-soaked every seven days for four weeks.

- November-February:  
Root zones should be slow-soaked every three weeks.
  - October, March & April:  
Root zones should be slow-soaked every two weeks.
  - May-September:  
Root zones should be slow-soaked once a week.
- After watering and adding mulch to compensate for any settling. If necessary, stake tree to keep upright. The only pruning necessary at planting is to remove injured or dead branches. Structural pruning should be delayed until the second year of growth.

### **HOW DEEP SHOULD YOU PLANT**

Under normal conditions, root growth is best encouraged by planting slightly above the original soil level. When wet conditions or heavy soil are problems, raising several inches of the root ball above ground will aid the spread of the lateral roots. In arid climates, a basin can be used to collect water.

### **MISTAKES TO AVOID**

- Do not plant too deep.
- Do not wrap trees.
- Do not amend the soil, unless the soil is very poor.
- Do not brace so tightly that the tree cannot sway.
- Do not leave supports on for more than one growing season.
- Do not disturb root ball.
- Do not remove branches to balance crown with roots.