



# ELGIN NURSERY



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## HOW TO PLANT AND CARE FOR TREES AND SHRUBS

It is best to plant a tree or shrub when the rootball is moist (not soggy).

When possible, water your plants 24 hours before you plan to plant.

1. Dig hole 2 times as wide as the plants rootball and equal in depth to the plants rootball. Remove the soil and place it at the side of the hole. Loosen, but do not remove an additional 6-10 inches in the bottom of the hole.
2. Test DRAINAGE!!! Place 6 - 8 inches of water in the hole. If the water does not drain out within 3 hours, dig a 6 inch deep "chimney" (smaller, narrower hole) through the hard soil that is keeping the water from draining out. Retest.

If you run into impenetrable soil (called "caliche"), consult Elgin Nursery for additional planting instructions.

3. Using about 1/2 of the soil from the hole (the other 1/2 will be left over), blend in an equal amount (see below) of compost:

1 gallon . . . 3/4 cubic foot of compost per plant  
5 gallon . . . 1 cubic foot of compost per plant  
15 gallon . . . 2 cubic feet of compost per plant  
24" box . . . 3 to 4 cubic feet of compost per plant

4. Carefully remove the plant from the container. This may be done one of two ways:  
A. Cut the can away from the plant or  
B. If possible, turn plant upside down and lift the container off. When planting wooden tree boxes, remove the bottom slats. Place the tree in the hole with all 4 sides of the box still on the tree. Once in the hole, cut the banding and remove the four sides.

5. Set the plant in the center of the hole so that it is level with the ground.
6. Fill the hole with your blended mix of native soil and compost until you are 3/4 of the way up the rootball, tamping it lightly every 6 inches.

( continued on back )

7. Finish filling the hole and soak the new soil around the rootball thoroughly. Add additional soil mix if the soil settles below the top of the rootball.
8. If you will be watering with a hose, build a 3 to 4 inch watering basin around the edges of the hole. If you will be using drip irrigation, place the emitters on top of the rootball with at least one emitter next to the main stem of the plant.
9. Saturate the rootball with water. (In step #7), you were concentrating your watering on settling the new soil, now you are concentrating on wetting the rootball of the plant.)
10. Apply root stimulator to the rootball. Follow the instructions on the label.



### Watering Tips:

Keep the rootball of your new planting moist (not soggy) for 10 days to two weeks. To be sure you wet the rootball and not just the soil surrounding the rootball, place your hose or emitter directly over the rootball. With a hose, water with a slow drip so water penetrates the rootball and does not run off into the soil surrounding the rootball.

Be especially attentive to THOROUGHLY WETTING THE ROOTBALL (NOT THE SOIL SURROUNDING THE ROOTBALL), during the first 6 weeks. A general rule of thumb is to water when the top 1 inch of the rootball is dry. On new plantings, this may mean watering every 7 - 10 days during cold weather and 2 - 4 days in the hotter weather.

THERE IS NO HARD AND FAST RULE. DIFFERENT PLANTS IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN DIFFERENT YARDS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF TOWN BEING WATERED BY DIFFERENT PEOPLE MAKE EACH SITUATION UNIQUE. PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR PLANTS AND THEY WILL "TELL" YOU WHEN THEY NEED WATER. WHEN YOU DO WATER, WATER THOROUGHLY. PLANTS TRANSPIRE MORE WATER ON HOT, WINDY DAYS THAN ON COOL, WET DAYS.

*Please let us know whenever you are concerned about your plants,  
and we will try to solve your problems.*

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