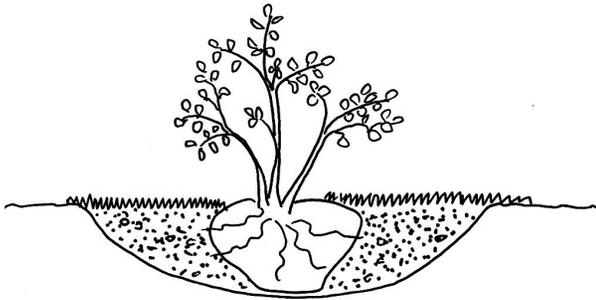


## FALL PLANTING Trees + Shrubs



### Why plant in fall?

From mid-August to mid-October air temperatures and warm, damp soil conditions promote vigorous root growth. A good rule of thumb: **plant by Columbus Day weekend!**

**Plants need at least six weeks to establish before the ground freezes.**

### Easy Plants for Fall

**Choose moderately sized deciduous trees and shrubs that will establish easily.**

Choose healthy, container-grown or ball and burlapped plants.

**Trees that establish easily** include ash, alder, elm, catalpa, crabapple, Eastern redbud, maple, horsechestnut, hackberry, hawthorn, honeylocust, sycamore, and linden.

**Pine and spruce** will do well if planted before the end of September while the soil is warm.

**Most deciduous shrubs will establish easily** in the fall, but wait until spring to plant broad-leaved evergreens such as rhododendron and narrow-leaved evergreens such as yew.

### Right plant, right place!

Look at your site carefully before you choose a plant.

- Is it sunny, shady, or *partly* sunny or shady?
- Is the site protected or exposed to wind?
- What size is the space you want the plant to fill?

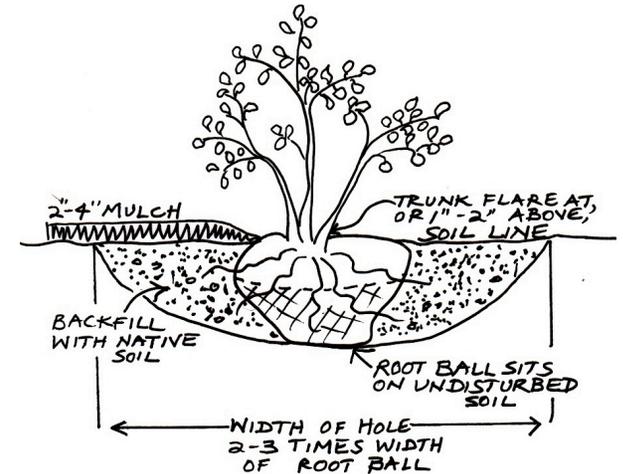
**Ask your local garden center to help you choose the right plant for your site.** They will know what plants grow well in your area and will help you **match the needs of the plant to your site.**

Plants with no significant pest problems, drought tolerance, no invasive tendencies, and beauty in at least two seasons top the list.

### How to Plant

- Measure from the trunk flare of the plant to the bottom of the root ball or mass, and dig a hole that depth. **Planting too deeply may cause the plant to die!**
- Measure the **width** of the root mass. Loosen and remove the soil from a bowl-shaped area **2-3 times wider** than this measurement. Place the soil on a piece of plastic to make it easier to return to the hole.

- Gently **loosen any roots** that are wrapped tightly around the root ball of plants from containers.
- **Remove wire, string and the top half of burlap** covering from around the root ball



- Set the plant so the **trunk flare is at, or 1" – 2" inches above**, the existing soil level.
- **Use the native soil to fill around the roots.** If the soil is light sand or heavy clay, mix in some peat moss or compost.
- Water the soil half way through backfilling and allow it to drain before finishing the backfill. **Water the root ball and planting area immediately after backfilling.**

→ See **Growing Tips 9** Fall Plantings: Successful Care for more on care and maintenance of your fall plantings.



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