

Planting Notes

*Deciduous Trees should be a minimum of 5 feet tall at time of planting and conifers (evergreens) must be at least 3 feet tall when planted. Shrubs should be 2-3 feet tall and/or purchased in at least a 3 gallon pot. Exceptions can be made if purchasing shrubs in “bare-root” form. Shrubs should be planted 3-5 feet apart. Trees distances vary, read directions on tags.

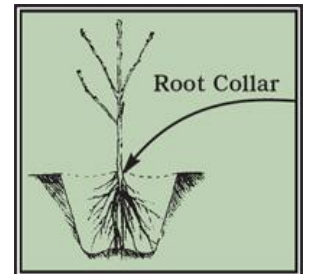
*You are responsible for maintaining your restoration plantings and ensuring their survival. If shrubs or trees die due to disease, drought, insect damage, wildlife, weather, neglect, etc., additional replacement plantings will be required.

*When purchasing trees and shrubs it is recommended to buy in “bare root” form, as they will be considerably cheaper, require a much smaller hole to be dug, and have a good survival rate when planted promptly. Bare root trees & shrubs are typically only available in late April to mid May.

*Planting holes should be dug 3 times wider than the container or root ball and just deep enough so the top of the root ball is at ground level. Remember-the majority of tree/shrub roots grow outwards not downwards.

*Soil amendments like peat moss or compost should be mixed up thoroughly with the existing soil on the property. Dig hole and place the removed soil in a pile. Then mix peat moss and/or compost into the pile of soil (1/3 Peat moss to 2/3 soil for sandy soil & clay soils). Do not simply add peat moss to the hole you are planting in as this can lead to poor root development. All soil amendments need to be completely mixed into the soil.

*Before planting potted trees/shrubs you need to loosen the root ball. This can be done by cutting into the root ball vertically from the top to the bottom with a knife and then loosening the root ball with your fingers. If there are roots encircling the plant, you want to pull them apart so the roots extend outward in all directions.



*Make sure you don't plant your trees and shrubs too deep. Look to keep the root collar at or above the soil surface. The root collar is the highest point on the trunk of the tree where a root is attached. If trees are planted too deep, it can lead to the death of the tree or shrub. See figure.

*Mulching 3-4 inches deep around trees and shrubs is highly recommended to help retain soil moisture and limit weed growth. Do not pile up mulch around the trunks of trees and shrubs; limits aeration and damages.

*Shrubs, Trees, and Plants need to be watered often and thoroughly during the first few growing seasons. Additional watering in subsequent years may be needed during dry periods when there is inadequate rainfall. A good rule of thumb is newly planted trees and shrubs need at least 1 inch of rain/water a week. Occasional deep watering that fully saturates the top 12 inches of the soil is ideal for good root development. Frequent and brief watering that only soaks the first few inches of soil can lead to shallow rooting of the tree/shrub which makes it more prone to drought stress in subsequent years. In other words, a couple of long and deep soakings each week are better than a little water each day.

* If you have a lot of deer coming into your yard, it is strongly recommended to fence around the trees and shrubs during the first couple growing seasons to reduce any deer damage.