

FERTILIZING

The following year after planting we recommend applying an organic fertilizer. There are many choices but you want to make sure that acid-loving and neutral plants both receive the proper type with regards to pH. Also, certain hydrangeas will change their color based on pH so you'll want to decide how they should look. Consider foliage applications of fish & seaweed liquid which will quickly green up foliage, increase blooming, and even prevent certain insects from damaging the plant. Granular types can be sprinkled around the base of the plant but first pull away bark mulch if present so the fertilizer is in contact with the soil. If you have good rich soil and your plants are currently thriving fertilization may not even be necessary. Another option is to top dress planting beds with organic compost. You can make your own with food and yard waste so its both free and readily available.

PRUNING

Generally speaking, for flowering trees and shrubs its often best to prune immediately after flowering so the plant has enough time to set flower buds for the following year. Evergreens and new-wood bloomers can be pruned any time but its best to stop by mid-summer so new growth can harden off by frost time. Criss-crossed and rubbing branches should be removed from trees to prevent damage to bark which can invite pests and disease. When trying to control the size of a plant the general rule is to remove no more than 1/3 of the height and width. For plant health and longevity, pruning is always superior to shearing.

PESTS AND DISEASE

Inspecting all your plants for problems on a weekly basis is the best way to prevent issues as virtually everything is susceptible to some type of pest. Look for discolorations, spots, bumps and anything out of the ordinary, when in doubt, bring us a sample. Many organic compounds are effective and readily available, chemicals are best left to be used as a last resort. Animals are another concern in our region and can be highly destructive. Deer, rabbits and rodents are especially problematic so be prepared to use repellents or physical barriers. Check with us for precautions you can take to minimize issues with certain plants.

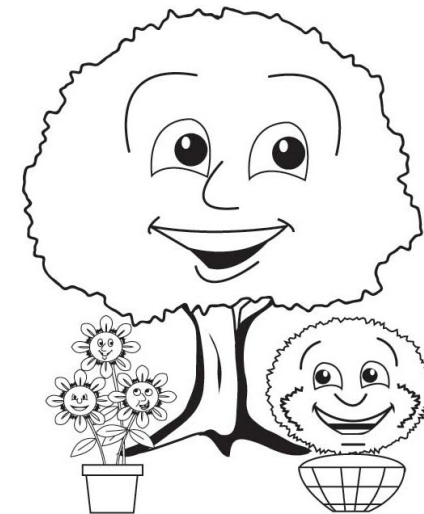
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PLANT CARE GUIDE



31 ESSEX ROAD

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978-356-5422

www.corlissbrothers.com

info@corlissbrothers.com

SELECTION

Before selecting a plant it is necessary to observe the desired location and its growing conditions; hours of direct sunlight, soil type (clay, loam, sand), moisture, nearby trees etc. It is even advisable to dig a test hole to determine if there are many tree roots or rock ledge present. If there is shade? Note what is causing the shade. Is there any filtered or indirect light reaching the location? Determine what will happen in different seasons as well. Does the area flood in spring? Scorching heat in the summer? Strong winds or deer grazing in winter? From here we can include or exclude potential plant species which desire specific growing conditions.

INSTALLATION

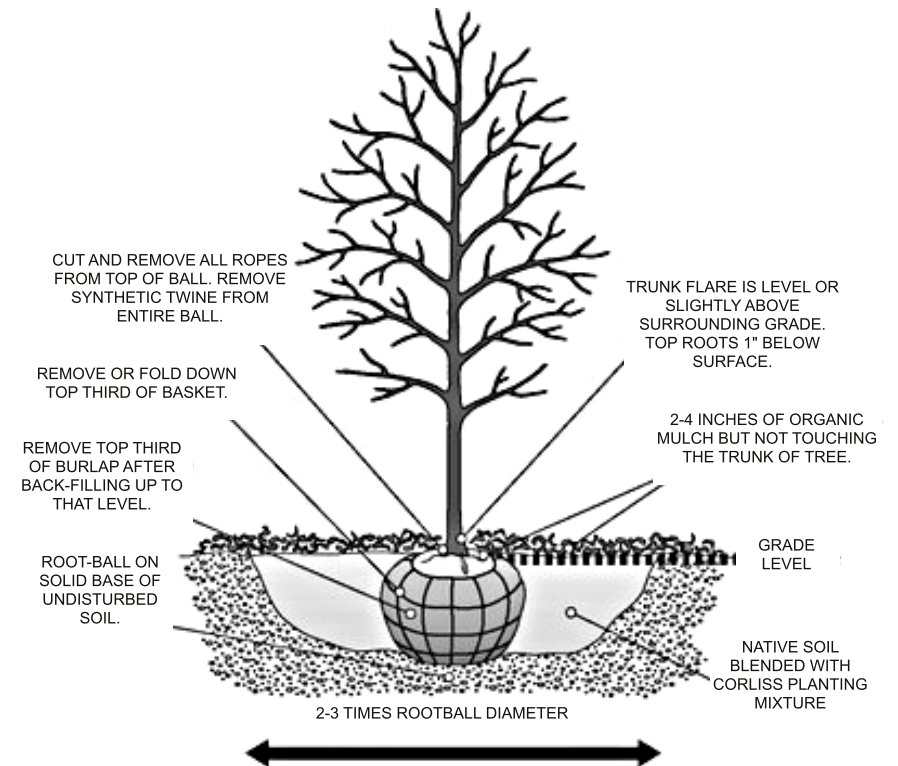
1. Break up the soil in the planting site 2-3 times the width of the root-ball and remove it creating sloped sides. Leave a flat base which has a depth of the height of the root-ball to the top edge, not the trunk itself. Larger trees will have a trunk flare which is the visible part of the trunk which is noticeably wider at the base. This part of the tree must always be at or slightly above finished grade, never below. Deep planting is a primary cause of tree failure. (Container plants may require "scoring" the roots prior to planting.)

2. Set the root-ball in the hole at the proper depth and then backfill with existing soil blended with Corliss Planting Mixture. Stop after backfilling 1/3 and then add water to the hole to settle the soil. Once the plant is stable go ahead and remove all the twine and burlap around the top. Wire baskets can be either folded down or top 1/3 removed. Backfill another 1/3 of blended soil and then repeat the watering. (Use 1 bag of Corliss Mix per tree or 3-4qt for every foot height (or spread) of all other plants, don't overuse soil amendments)

3. Finish the backfilling to grade level and make a circular mound of soil around the outside edge of the root-ball circumference. This will create a "saucer" or "well" which holds water and prevents run-off. Bark mulch or wood chips should be applied at a 2-4" depth but without actually touching the trunk itself. The day of planting fill the saucer with water 2-3 times letting it drain between fillings.

4. Staking a tree for the first year may be necessary if the root-ball is loose or in a highly windy location.

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Approximate Watering Volumes (well drained soil):

Pot size.....Water amount

#1-2 pots.....2-4 gallons per week

#3-5 pots.....6-8 gallons per week

#7-9 pots.....7-9 gallons per week

#10-15 pots.....10 gallons per week

Caliper Trees.....10 gallons per 1" trunk diameter

Start with 50% less for plants which prefer drier soils and then monitor weekly until a proper amount is determined

For early Spring-time plantings don't water until foliage has emerged, especially with fruit trees. Dig 6" below surface periodically to make sure water is penetrating. You want to be able to make a clump in your hand but not be able to squeeze out water. Send us an image from your smart phone should a plant not look its best!