

# Duke UNIVERSITY

A 329100

## TREE PLANTING DETAIL

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Do not purchase or install trees with two leaders. Do not structural prune at planting. Only prune tree at planting for specific corrections, including broken and dead branches.

Do not wrap trunk; Mark the north side of the tree in the nursery and locate to the north in field.

Trunk flare and top of root ball should be at grade in well drained soil, up to 4 inches (10 cm) above grade in poorly drained soils.

Note: Width of planting hole is minimum 3 times root ball diameter in highly compacted or clay soil; 2 times the root ball diameter minimum in all others.

Dig wide planting hole with tapered sides. Rough up the sides of the planting hole with a shovel or hand tool.

Cut burlap, rope and wire basket away from top and sides of root ball. Uncover at least 2/3 of rootball.

Set Ball on undisturbed soil to prevent settling.

Before planting, add 3-4" (7-10 cm) of well-composted leaves, recycled yard waste or other compost and till into top 6" (15 cm) of prepared soil. Add compost at 20-35% by volume to backfill.

Do not stake trees except where specified by landscape architect.

3" (8 cm) bark mulch; do not place mulch in contact with tree trunk. Keep mulch 2" from tree trunk.

4" (10 cm) raised ring of soil to direct water into root ball - especially important if top of root ball is raised above grade.

Extend stakes into undisturbed soil.

Perimeter trench to be 4-6" (10-15 cm) deeper than root ball pad for poor draining soils.

Pack backfill soil around base of root ball to stabilize; allow rest of backfill to settle naturally or tamp lightly.

**Tree Planting Detail (B&B plants)**

#### NOTES

1. Where several trees will be planted close together such that they will likely share root space, till in soil amendments to a depth of 4-6" (10-15cm) over the entire area.
2. For container grown trees, use fingers or small hand tools to pull the roots out of the outer layer of potting soil; then cut or pull apart any roots circling the perimeter of the container.
3. During the design phase, confirm that water drains out of the soil; use lowered planting hole depth and design alternative drainage system as required.
4. Thoroughly soak the tree root ball and adjacent prepared soil several times during the first month after planting and regularly throughout the following two summers.
5. The planting process is similar for deciduous and evergreen trees.