

Tree planting and staking

Tree Planting Detail

(Not to scale)

Install approved attachment devices to stabilize tree. Materials should be flexible and allow for movement so that trunk taper develops correctly.

Stake trees only if needed, using sturdy materials. Attach at the lowest branches, or no higher than 2/3 the height of the tree.

Excavate soil or media to expose the root flare just above the uppermost roots, to identify proper planting depth.

Remove container or, if B&B, remove upper 1/3-1/2 of wrapping material and wire basket.

Backfill planting pit with native soil material. Do not use any amendments.

Place tree on undisturbed subgrade or compact, if disturbed.

Prune only dead or damaged branches.

Remove all tags, ties, strings, twine, wire, wrapping, etc.

Wrap smooth bark trees, if necessary. Use a light-colored, flexible wrapping material.

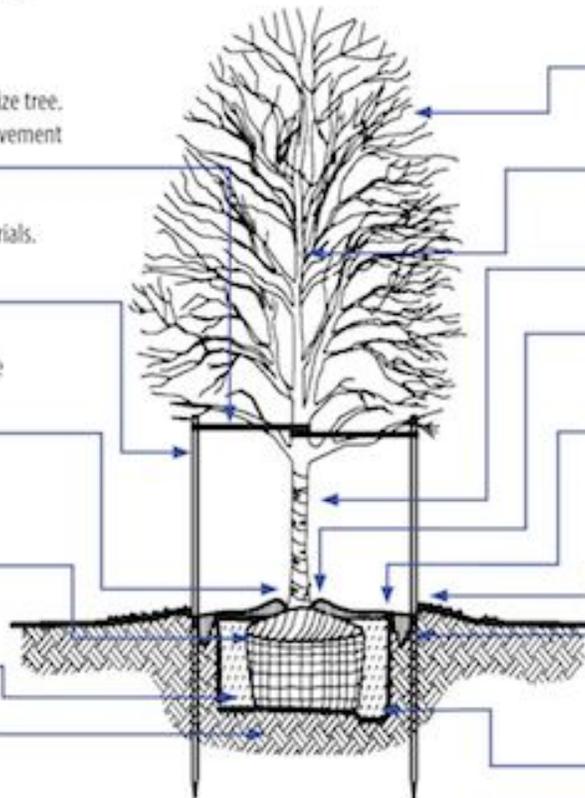
Locate root flare slightly above finish grade.

Excavate planting pit 1½-2 times the size of the root ball, maintaining vertical sides.

Create a mulch ring to slightly exceed the diameter of the tree's drip line, forming a saucer for watering.

Apply suitable mulching materials 2-4 inches deep. Avoid mounding against trunk.

Water thoroughly after planting.



Do it right the first time

As spring comes and we are all ready to look at yard improvements, spring clean up, planting of bushes and trees, here are some key elements that should be kept in consideration when planting. Whether you do it yourself or have others do the work for you, a little time of supervision will take you a long way. Using these quick tips will improve your plants successful establishment and ensure healthy long term growth.

Use the planting detail on page 1 as guidelines.

Choose the right plant for the right space. Research the plant profile and be sure the plant will have adequate space with minimal cutting it when the plant reaches maturity. Trees and woody plants tend to have a large size thus should not be planted less than 4 feet away from any structure. In fact, the best distance is minimum 10 feet.

Take your time making decisions with a permanent placement in mind. Plants don't do well with transplanting. Choose the time of year when the soil is not dry or saturated by rain or irrigation. Avoid staging or planting in high temperatures.

Make sure the irrigation design is suitable, and the soil grading is adequately formed to keep excess water away from the plant root collar.

Be aware that the three most important elements for every living organism needs to be available to the trees and plants. Those critical elements are water, light, and oxygen. Without them the plants will struggle and likely decline.

Staking the trees correctly is important. Use stakes only if needed. Typically larger trees do not need staking. If the trees are planted in a high wind exposure area, guying may be more suitable.

Inspect the tree ties periodically and remove the tree ties and the tree stakes after 1 to 2 years if the tie gets too tight around the trunk. If a tree is not established within that period, something went wrong and it will not be stable enough to reach maturity.

Neglecting the inspection of stakes and ties can have a devastating permanent effect on the structure of the trees.



Placement of the irrigation system needs to target the drip line of the tree which is at the outer edges of the plant crown. Plants and trees develop better when their roots expand into their surroundings rather than being watered at the base of the trunk which results in girdling roots.

Ground covering is also a crucial finishing to the plantings. If trees are to be in a lawn area, do not install turf up to the tree trunk. Leave a 12 inches to 24 inches area without any vegetation around the tree, and install a 2 inches layer of organic mulch. If planting is in a planter area, the best practice is to use neutralized organic mulch. Rocks of any kind do not release any nutrient value, apply pressure to sensitive roots by weight, and fragment into smaller pieces over time which may create a seal diverting the water away. Rocks also transfer extreme heat and cold to the sensitive root system.

Also, it is detrimental to use a “volcano” style mulching (not related to volcano rock products). In the pictures below show the volcano style mulching. Keep all materials off and away the tree root collar by a distance of minimum 4 inches.



Watering immediately after planting is very important as the plants need to have the air pockets eliminated from the porous soil particles. Do not be tempted to over water. New trees establish better if watered every few days rather than daily, (or drowning them). Legacy soils are mostly clay which retains the highest water rates of all soils. Check the soil moisture frequently to decide if additional water is needed. Deep slow watering is best so drip irrigation systems should be considered. Avoid overhead watering in the afternoons between 1 PM and 8 PM as the sun is very hot and may scorch the bark and foliage of plants.

If you have any questions or concerns please address them to landscape@legacyidahohoa.com

Landscaping yards is a very expensive investment making it more enjoyable when the success rate of retaining healthy plants is higher. We hope you find these few tips useful for the successful planting of your landscapes.

Sincerely,

Legacy Landscape Committee

Sources are the International Society of Arboriculture - Best Practices series, and the Tree Care Industry Association guidelines.