

# 8 Tips for Tree Planting Success

1

Coniferous trees need to be wrapped in burlap during the first two - five winter seasons following planting. During the winter, when exposed to wind, trees lose moisture from their needles which they are unable to replace. This results in needle loss and can lead to premature death.

2

The top of the root ball, or the soil surface in the pot or container, should be slightly above grade to allow for settling.

3

Dig the planting hole 2 - 3 times as wide as the root ball, pot or container. The tree is to be placed in the center of the hole. The height of the tree can be adjusted using the excavated soil to ensure proper tree height.

4

Backfill with the excavated material. Form a 'soil saucer' or berm, 5 - 10 cm higher than the surrounding grade, around the edge of the hole. Water after planting to help compact the soil and ensure the tree's roots stay moist.

5

For potted trees, remove the pot prior to planting. Place the tree in the hole. Inspect for large, circling roots. Where possible without damaging the tree or collapsing the soil around the roots, circling roots should be straightened. For balled and burlapped trees, remove one third to one half of burlap and wire from the root ball.

8

Remove any cracked or broken branches using sharp hand tools. No other pruning should be required. Remove any cracked or broken branches using sharp hand tools. No other pruning should be required.

7

Trees should be supported for two years following planting using a metal or wooden stake. Stakes should be installed at the edge of the root ball, inserted a minimum of 60 cm into the ground facing into the prevailing wind (west). Trees are to be attached to stakes with gauge 12 galvanized wire or tree tie. When using wire, it must be encased in rubber hose to avoid bark damage.

6

Place 5 - 10 cm of shredded bark mulch around the tree base, over the root ball, planting hole and soil saucer. But do not pile mulch against the tree stem.

