



## Potted Tree Planting Guide (Backyard)

Fowler Nurseries' number one goal is to see successful establishment of high quality trees. This planting guide gives some suggestions as to how to best give a great start to potted trees.

- **Before Planting Trees-** If you are not able to plant your tree(s) today, it is best to store the potted trees in filtered shade with the ability to water as much as might be required. Water pots as needed to keep the root ball thoroughly moist.
- **Soil Moisture-** It is essential when planting a potted tree that the surrounding soil moisture be at capacity BEFORE the tree is even planted. If the soil is not adequately moist, the soil will pull water from the root ball, causing the tree to dry, hindering root growth.
  - Even though your soil is significantly wet at planting, tanking-in trees is essential to settle the soil and ensure there are no air pockets surrounding the root ball. Root to soil contact is critical.
  - Be sure to monitor the moisture in the underground root ball. If surrounding soil begins to dry out too much, it will pull moisture from the roots of your newly planted tree. In late summer or fall plantings, potted tree roots will only slowly grow outside the potting mix they were in, although water demands of the tree can be high. Unlike bare-root trees, irrigation should be aimed at wetting not only the soil around the tree but also watering the root ball.
- **Planting-** Make sure the planting hole is deep enough to place the entire potted soil ball and that the top of the soil ball is at ground level. Cut off the carrying bag around the plant immediately before planting. It is not recommended to break up any part of the root ball before planting, but if there are roots growing on the outside of the potted soil mass, you might loosen them up a bit. Injury to the roots can hinder the plant's success and encourage disease entrance. Fowler Nurseries does not advise the application of any fertilizer at time of planting because we have been fertilizing them, but if any fertilizer is used, be sure that it does not touch the roots. This can cause burning and permanent damage to the plant.
- **Tree Protection-** It is recommended to protect the base of young trees from sunburn, chewing rodents and other pests by placing a tree protector wrap around the base. Fowler Nurseries provides these wraps to our customers. You can also paint the trunk with white interior latex paint mixed 50/50 with water.
  - Please note the tree tags are temporary tags and should be removed as the trees get larger. If not removed, they may later girdle the tree.

