

CAUTION

USE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN HANDLING TREES. USE A STRAP CRADLE (ADEQUATE FOR WEIGHT AND SIZE OF TREE AND ROOTBALL) ATTACHED TO ROOT BALL TO UNLOAD & MOVE TREES.

STRAPPING AND WIRE BASKET CAN BREAK OR LOOSEN. NEVER MOVE, LIFT, OR HANDLE BY ATTACHING TO OR BY PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE TRUNK.

STAND CLEAR AT ALL TIMES!

BE CERTAIN YOUR EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING STRAPS, CHAINS, AND CRADLES, IS RATED FOR THE WEIGHTS YOU ARE LIFTING.

HANDLING, PLANTING, AND CARE **INSTRUCTIONS**

CLOSELY FOLLOWING THESE INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD PROMOTE HEALTHY TREE GROWTH & SHOULD PREVENT THE FOLLOWING CHALLENGES FROM OCCURRING:

- **DEFOLIATION / HOLDING BROWN LEAVES**
- **FORMATION OF TRUNK-GIRDLING ROOTS**
- **SECONDARY PESTS (INSECTS / DISEASE)**
 - **TRUNK & CANOPY DAMAGE**
 - **LEANING TREES / LOOSE ROOT BALLS**
- **POOR HEALTH, LACK OF VIGOR, DECLINE OR DEATH**

A. UNLOADING, HANDLING, AND STAGING

- 1. STAGING SYSTEMS SHOULD BE PREPARED IN ADVANCE TO ADEQUATELY HOLD TREES ABOVE GROUND FOR OPTIMUM TREE HEALTH PRIOR TO PLANTING. MANY TIMES, EVEN WITH THE BEST PLANNING & COORDINATION, TREES CANNOT BE PLANTED WHEN THEY ARE DELIVERED.**
- 2. USE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN HANDLING TREES. USE A STRAP CRADLE (ADEQUATE FOR WEIGHT AND SIZE OF TREE AND ROOTBALL) ATTACHED TO THE ROOT BALL TO UNLOAD & MOVE TREES. STRAPPING & WIRE BASKETS CAN BREAK OR LOOSEN. NEVER MOVE, LIFT, OR HANDLE BY ATTACHING TO OR BY PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE TRUNK. BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO DAMAGE OR SCAR TRUNKS & BRANCHES.**
- 3. PRIOR TO UNLOADING, PROPER MOISTURE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED IN ROOT BALLS. TRUCKS SHOULD BE STAGED IN THE SHADE PRIOR TO UNLOADING. UNLOADING TIME SHOULD BE NO MORE THAN TWO HOURS PER TRUCK.**
- 4. IMMEDIATELY AFTER UNLOADING (NO MORE THAN ONE HOUR AFTER UNLOADING), STAND THE TREES UP. THIS WILL REDUCE THE RISK OF SUN SCALD. PROPERLY STAGED TREES ARE STANDING, UNTIED, & SPACED.**
- 5. REMOVE THE CARDBOARD TRUNK PROTECTOR WITHIN 48 HOURS OF TREES BEING STOOD UPRIGHT TO REDUCE THE RISK OF DAMAGE.**
- 6. MONITOR MOISTURE IN THE ROOT BALL BY PROBING THE SOIL WITH A SOIL PROBE & MANAGE SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION ACCORDINGLY. BE CAREFUL NOT TO OVER OR UNDER IRRIGATE.**
- 7. DURING COLD WEATHER PERIODS, ROOT BALLS MUST BE PROTECTED FROM FREEZING TEMPERATURES.**

HANDLING, PLANTING, AND CARE **INSTRUCTIONS**

B. PLANTING

1. BEFORE PLANTING, REMOVE ANY PLASTIC WRAP & ANY CIRCLING ROOTS FROM THE ROOT BALL. HANDLE TREE ONLY BY ROOT BALL & BE CERTAIN YOUR EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING STRAP & CHAIN CRADLES, ARE RATED FOR THE WEIGHT YOU ARE LIFTING.
2. EXCAVATE PLANTING HOLE AT LEAST TWO TIMES THE DIAMETER OF & 2" SHALLOWER THAN THE ROOT BALL.
3. PLACE ROOT BALL AT A LEVEL WHERE THE TRUNK FLARE WILL BE 2" ABOVE SURROUNDING FINISHED GRADE AFTER SETTLING.
4. MAINTAIN THE TREE IN A STRAIGHT & PLUMB POSITION WHILE BACKFILLING TO NO MORE THAN 1/2 THE DEPTH OF THE ROOTBALL.
5. SATURATE THE PLANTING HOLE WITH WATER AFTER BACKFILL IS 1/2 COMPLETE TO AID REMOVAL OF AIR FROM THE BACKFILL.
6. AFTER INITIAL BACKFILL, WATERING, & THE TREE IS PLUMB, THEN ADD BACKFILL TO JUST BELOW THE TOP HORIZONTAL RING, SATURATE PLANTING HOLE & ADJUST ROOT BALL (IF NECESSARY) TO MAKE TREE STRAIGHT & PLUMB.
7. AFTER ABOVE ITEMS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, REMOVE:
 - A. THE SYNTHETIC STRAP,
 - B. ANY CARDBOARD PACKAGING,
 - C. THE TOP PORTION OF THE WIRE BASKET DOWN TO & INCLUDING THE FIRST HORIZONTAL RING,
 - D. THE BURLAP FROM THE TOP PORTION OF THE ROOT BALL.
8. COMPLETE THE BACKFILL & THOROUGHLY SATURATE WITH WATER TO AID REMOVAL OF AIR FROM THE BACKFILL.
9. AFTER BACKFILL HAS SUBSTANTIALLY SETTLED & THE TREE IS STRAIGHT & PLUMB, STAKE TREE TO PROVIDE STABILITY UNTIL ROOT SYSTEM IS THOROUGHLY ESTABLISHED. CHECK STAKING AS NEEDED TO MAKE SURE TRUNK DAMAGE DOES NOT OCCUR & THAT TREE AND ROOT BALL ARE STABLE.
10. MULCH THE AREA OVER THE ROOT BALL TO A DEPTH NO DEEPER THAN 1 1/2" TO 2". KEEP ALL MULCH AWAY FROM THE TRUNK FLARE.

HANDLING, PLANTING, AND CARE **INSTRUCTIONS**

C. POST-PLANTING CARE

1. **MULCH THE AREA OVER THE ROOT BALL TO A DEPTH NO DEEPER THAN 1 1/2" TO 2". KEEP ALL MULCH AWAY FROM THE TRUNK FLARE. REMOVE ANY OLD MULCH BEFORE APPLYING NEW MULCH.**
2. **MONITOR MOISTURE IN THE ROOT BALL BY PROBING THE SOIL WITH A SOIL PROBE & MANAGE SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION ACCORDINGLY. BE CAREFUL NOT TO OVER OR UNDER IRRIGATE.**

NOTE: TREES WILL NOT THRIVE AND WILL OFTEN DIE IN SATURATED SOILS. IRRIGATION SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY STOPPED ON ALL TREES WITH EXCESS SOIL MOISTURE & RESTARTED ONLY WHEN SOIL PROBE INDICATES WATER IS NEEDED. TREES WITH EXCESS SOIL MOISTURE SHOULD BE MONITORED AND TREATED DAILY. SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE MAY BE REQUIRED TO CREATE PROPER SOIL MOISTURE.

3. **COMPLETELY REMOVE ALL STAKING SYSTEMS AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME TO PREVENT TRUNK & STEM DAMAGE.**
4. **TREES SHOULD BE MONITORED FOR BORING INSECTS FOR THE FIRST YEAR AFTER INSTALLATION. PREVENTIVE PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED DURING THE ESTABLISHMENT PERIOD.**
5. **WHILE IT MAY NOT BE IDEAL FROM A COSMETIC PERSPECTIVE, IT IS BEST FOR THE HEALTH OF THE TREES TO WAIT UNTIL DORMANCY TO STRAIGHTEN TREES. THE STAKING ON THESE TREES SHOULD BE RE-ADJUSTED AFTER STRAIGHTENING THE TREES.**

IF FOR ANY REASON TREES NEED STRAIGHTENING AFTER THE ABOVE PROCESS, TREES CAN BE STRAIGHTENED BY CAREFULLY DIGGING OUT AROUND THE ROOT BALL, ATTACHING SEAT BELT STRAP TO THE PART OF THE WIRE BASKET THAT IS STILL INTACT AROUND THE ROOT BALL, AND LIFTING.

NEVER PULL, PUSH, OR PUT PRESSURE ON THE TRUNK (REFER TO ACTIONS B.3 - B.10 FOR INFORMATION TO COMPLETE THIS PROCESS).