



## Planting Your Trees and Shrubs

The natural beauty of trees and shrubs can enhance the appearance of your home and yard. To achieve this goal, plants - like people, need special care during their early years. By placing your plants in the proper location, planting them correctly, and pruning your plants when needed, your trees and shrubs will provide you with many years of beauty and enjoyment.



Take time to plant them correctly, you will not be sorry for making the extra effort.

Find out how to qualify for J&L's Extended 'Dr. Earth' Tree & Shrub Warranty.

Read This Handout, especially Step 3, and you start to qualify!

A properly planted tree or shrub will be more tolerant of adverse conditions and require much less management than one planted incorrectly.

### 1. Dig a Large Planting Hole.

The planting hole should be twice as wide and just as deep as the root ball. In severely compacted soils, dig the hole even larger. A large hole is important because roots have a hard time growing in compacted soil. By



digging a large hole, and backfilling, the soil will be loosened so the roots can grow faster. The easier the roots can grow, the better the plant will grow.

### 2. Prepare the Hole and the Soil.

Good, rich, native soil mixed with a small amount of **Bumper Crop** is all that is needed for plants to start growing. Mix **25% Bumper Crop** with the native soil dug from the hole. Use **Acid Planting Mix** when planting acid loving plants such as Azaleas, Blueberries, Japanese Maples, and Rhododendrons.



It's Better to Plant a \$50.00 Tree in a \$100.00 Hole than a \$100.00 Tree in a \$50.00 Hole.

**3. Mix Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer in the soil,** according to the recommendations on the package, for the size of the tree or shrub you are planting, about 1/4 cup of **Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer** for each 1 gallon size of the plant's rootball. This fertilizer contains mycorrhizae and seven other beneficial bacteria that help your plant to overcome transplant shock. These bacteria stimulate new 'hair root' development and speed up the natural growth processes both in the soil and within the plant. This organic fertilizer is safe for all newly planted flowers, vegetables, shrubs and trees. For more information about this fertilizer please ask for a copy of our **Dr. Earth Fertilizer Guide.**



**4. Plant at the Proper Depth.** The graft, the point where the root system ends and the trunk begins, should be placed just slightly above the ground level. If a plant is planted too deeply, its roots may suffocate. A shrub or tree planted too shallow may dry out too quickly, even if it is watered properly.



**5. Always remove the plant from its container.** Don't just pull the plant from its pot; remove the plant gently, giving support to the root ball to prevent soil from falling off the roots.



**Paper pots** - Slit the sides of the pot. Set the plant in the hole, at the proper depth, and remove the sides of the pot. If the shrub or tree is just newly planted in the paper pot, place soil against the sides of the pot to keep the soil from breaking away from the roots while you remove the pot. Do not worry about removing the bottom of the paper pot.

**Balled and Burlaped Plants** - Do not remove the burlap from the roots, the burlap will decompose. Set the plant in the hole, at the proper depth. After the shrub or tree is planted and watered thoroughly, cut the strings holding the burlap to the trunk. Then remove all exposed burlap.



**Bareroot Trees** - Do not let the roots dry out or freeze before they are planted. Keep the roots moist at all times. Spread the roots out in the hole before adding soil. Do not plant the tree too deep. Pack the soil mixture firmly around the roots and then water thoroughly.

**6. Fill in the hole** half way with your Bumper Crop/ Soil mixture. Fill the hole with water, and continue adding the soil mix to the proper level. Make a basin around your plant to hold water. The basin should be able to hold at least one to three gallons of water.

**7. Fertilize all your trees and shrubs early each spring (early April) for the first three years.** An easy way to fertilize young trees and shrubs is with either Dr. Earth All Purpose Organic Fertilizer or with Ross Fertilizer Stakes. These types of fertilizers help plants grow faster by providing a long lasting plant food. Older trees and shrubs may not need to be fertilized as often.



**8. Stake your Tree only if Necessary.** If you don't need to stake your tree, then don't. Improper staking may damage the bark, and could kill your tree. Be sure to remove the stake after 1 year.



**Small trees** may be staked by placing two (not one) 2" x 2" stakes one foot away from the tree (preferably east and west of the tree because of wind patterns). Tie the tree firmly to both stakes using either a wire inside a garden hose (to protect the bark from rubbing against the wire) or by using a stretching plastic tape.

**Large trees** should be held in place with guy wires. Attach the guy wire (inside a garden hose) two thirds up the tree trunk. Stake the guy wire two feet away from the trunk. Remove all the stakes and wire as soon as the tree has grown enough roots to support itself.

**9. Water your plants regularly the first year, until frost. Water your plants every day - with a hose - for the first week.**

After the first week, water them two to three times a week, for the first month. You may not need to water all plants every time, but check them regularly. **Keep the soil around your plants consistently moist, not constantly soggy wet.**

**10. Don't rely on sprinklers to water your newly planted trees and shrubs.** Sprinklers may either water your plants too much, or the sprinklers may miss the plant entirely.

Give your plants plenty of water but make sure that the water drains away from the plant within two hours; to prevent the roots from rotting.

Also, hand water all of your older trees and shrubs, with a hose, at least once or twice a month. Make sure that the water is soaking two to three feet deep into the soil around each plant.

Water plants more often during the hot, summer weather. As the temperature lowers in the fall, you don't need to water plants as often. When the leaves drop off in the fall, your plants still need a little moisture until the ground freezes, so make sure that you water your plants occasionally until snowfall.



Keep the Soil Moist, but not Always Soggy Wet.

## Twenty Ways to Kill a Plant

**Do Not Follow Any Of These!**

Because of the delicate balance between roots, air and soil, care should be taken not to do something that could kill your plants. It sometimes takes days, months, or even years to kill a plant. Listed below are some common situations that can damage or kill plants.

1. **Bury Your Plant Too Deep** - this cuts off the oxygen to the roots and causes a slow death.
2. **Add Six Inches of Soil** - above the original surface around your established plants. This slowly suffocates the plant.
3. **Leave a Pile of Soil** on top of a portion of the roots (dripline) for a month or so. You may damage that side of the plant.
4. **Lay Black Plastic** under the dripline of your plants to prevent weeds from growing. This stops oxygen transfer.
5. **Drop the Soil Level** several inches under your tree. This removes all the surface roots all at once.
6. **Rototill under a tree** - removing all the surface roots at once.
7. **Put in a Parking Lot** or a Driveway around your tree - right next to the trunk.
8. **Plant Next to an Air Conditioner** or a Dryer Vent. The hot air blows directly on the plant.
9. **Plant a shrub adapted for low water needs** in a wet spot, or in heavy soil.
10. **Plant a Tree in a Low Spot** in the lawn where water collects and doesn't drain.
11. **Rely Totally on Sprinklers** to water your plants for you.
12. **Compact the Soil** around the trunk of your tree.
13. **Plant in a Small, Confined Area** so there's no place for the roots to grow.
14. **Hang a clothesline**, or other item in your tree, using nails, screws or staples.
15. **Nick the Trunk** with a lawnmower.
16. **Whip the Trunk** with a Weedeater.
17. **Bump the Tree** with a vehicle.
18. **Have a bonfire** under the dripline of your tree.
19. **Use a Soil Sterilizer** around your tree to prevent weeds.
20. **Plant a \$100.00 tree in a \$50.00 Hole.**



Dripline - Tree Roots



<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-210/430-210.html>

[http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/NR\\_FF\\_017pr.pdf](http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/NR_FF_017pr.pdf)

<http://www.arborday.org/trees/video/howToPlant.cfm?>

## J&L Garden Center's Plant Guarantee

We appreciate your business and the opportunity to help you with all your planting needs. We stand behind our products with this guarantee: **We guarantee our plants to be in good growing condition at the time of purchase.** If a plant dies, after being properly planted (according to the steps in this handout) **during the first growing season**, we will replace it at no charge - with proof of purchase. This is limited to a one-time replacement. All claims must be made prior to December 1 of the year the plant was purchased. We do not guarantee plants against damage from abuse, neglect, insect or animal damage, or winter injury. **Simply return the plant, its tag, and your sales receipt for replacement.** All replacement values are determined by the original purchase price.



**We do not guarantee plants through the winter, unless they are planted with Dr. Earth Fertilizer - see below.**  
**We do not guarantee vegetables, flowers, hanging baskets, color bowls, houseplants, bonsai starts, citrus, or rhododendrons.**

### J&L's Extended 'Dr. Earth' Tree and Shrub Warranty

**Terms and Conditions.** This Extended Warranty Applies Only to Trees and Shrubs, and has a few limited exceptions.

J&L's Extended Tree and Shrub Warranty guarantees the plant for one full year from the time of purchase.

**You, the customer, must provide proof of purchase and planting - the original sales receipt.**

**J&L does not keep track of your purchases.**



1. J&L's Extended Tree and Shrub Warranty is subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Planting Guide. In order for J&L's Extended Tree and Shrub Warranty to apply, the Customer must have used the **Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer** at the original time of planting. Applying **Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer** at a later date does not include the plant in this warranty.
2. The tree or shrub must have been planted in accordance with the planting instructions contained within this planting guide.
3. The customer must return the dead tree or shrub for any warranty claim. **The customer must also present the original sales receipt for each tree or shrub warranted along with proof of purchase that Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer was purchased and used.**
4. This warranty is limited to a one-time replacement of the tree or shrub purchased. No allowance is made for any other costs incurred by the loss of the tree or shrub. Delivery and planting charges are not included in this warranty.
5. J&L's Extended Tree and Shrub Warranty applies only to Trees and Shrubs planted in the yard - not to Trees or Shrubs planted in pots on patios, decks, or in pots in other areas of the yard.
6. **This warranty does not apply to any hanging plants, color bowls, patio planters, annuals, vegetables, bulbs, perennial flowers, tropical plants, citrus trees, houseplants, azaleas, rhododendrons, or to any other Zone 5 and higher trees or shrubs. They are not always hardy in our Zone 4 climate.**
7. This warranty does not apply when damages are caused by natural disasters or by extreme weather conditions such as Winter Temperatures that drop below -20° F. (The normal minimum low temperature for this area.)
8. This warranty does not apply when damages to the tree or shrub were caused by the act of a person, animal, disease or insect. This warranty does not apply when damages are caused by wrongdoing, vandalism, negligence or otherwise.

**This written warranty supersedes any verbal guarantee given, or implied.**

**Warranty Tip:** Staple All Plant Receipts to this planting guide for future reference.

