

Pleasant Valley Greenhouse & Nursery, Inc.

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Tree & Shrub Planting Guidelines

1. Strip off the sod with a pointed shovel, from the area to be planted.
2. Work up the existing soil, and then add peat moss or manure at the rate of 10-20% peat moss or manure to 90-80% existing soil to a depth of 18". This will loosen up the compacted soil and allow the roots to get air and water.
3. Plant the shrub/tree at the same depth as the top of the soil ball, make the hole 25% bigger than the soil ball on the shrub or tree to back fill with the peat moss enriched soil. If the roots look very entwined, pull them apart and spread them out.
4. Water the shrub **very well** to settle the dirt around the roots. Water deeply once a day for the first week.
5. Water regularly & deeply the first two summers until the roots root into the soil deeper. Remember, all of the roots are mostly in the root ball the first summer. The following items need extra attention to watering:
 - Trees – Water twice a week **or more** the first year. Water once a week to 10-days during the second year.
 - “Leafy” Shrubs – Barberry, Potentilla, Spirea, etc.
 - Large Evergreens - Water twice a week the first year. Water once a week to 10-days during the second year.
6. Fertilize with a granular fertilizer like 5-10-5 or 10-10-10 after planting. Be sure not to get any fertilizer on the plant itself, because fertilizer will burn a plant. Follow our granular fertilizer guidelines.
 - ¼ cup for small shrubs
 - 1/3 cup for larger shrubs (3-4' or more)
 - ½ cup for trees

Spread the fertilizer out (like salt and pepper) on top of the soil. Never put fertilizer in the planting hole, it will burn the roots. Then as you water the shrub/tree, the fertilizer will gradually leech into the soil. Fertilize all trees and shrubs once a year.

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7. Put weed barrier (landscape fabric) down on the soil, cut slits where you can pull the fabric around the base of the shrub/tree.
8. Mulch to a depth of 1-2" on top of the landscape fabric to help conserve moisture.
9. Water...Water...Water. Keep newly planted shrubs and trees well watered for the first summer.