

Bentley Ridge Tree Farm & Nursery Planting Guide

1.

Dig your hole wide enough to accommodate the root ball and allow for backfill to be appropriately placed. You can dig as wide as you want, but no deeper.

2.

Remove container completely. Cut circling roots if they are present. When planting ball & burlap trees, set the tree in your pre-dug hole with wire and burlap intact, backfill the hole until the tree is stable, remove as much of the wire and burlap as possible, and then finish backfilling the hole.

Removing wire and burlap prior to placing tree in hole may result in damage and voids warranty.

3.

When placing the tree in the hole, do not set the tree too deep. The bottom of the hole should be undisturbed or packed soil. This will prevent extra settling.

★**4.**★

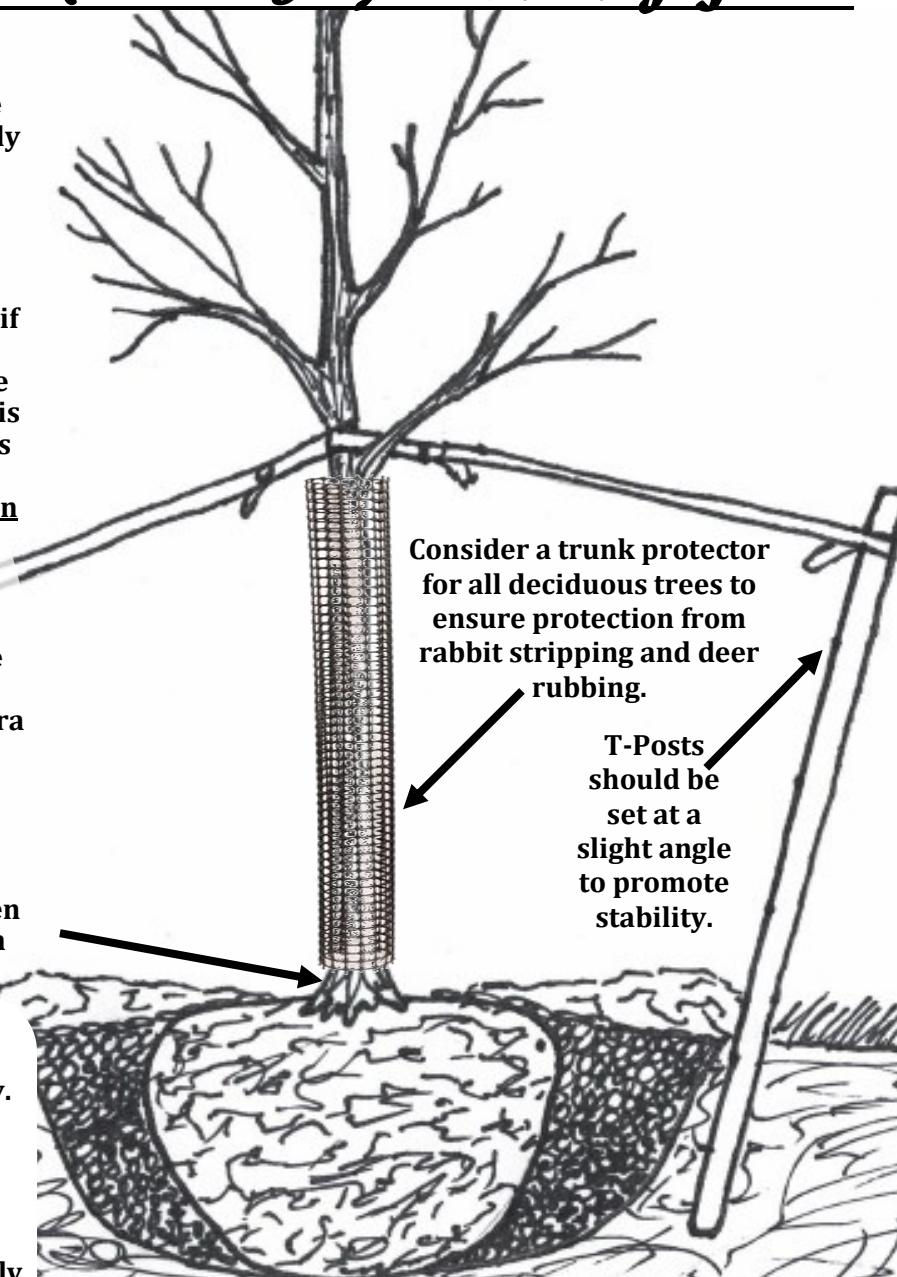
The root flare should be 1" - 2" above grade for trees. **NEVER BELOW GRADE!** The dirt should then be mounded up to it covering the root flare with about 1/2" of soil. *Root Flare definition below.

5.

Tamp in the soil around the root ball thoroughly. This will remove large air pockets and prevent settling.

6.

Place mulch in a "donut" pattern around the newly planted area. Pile mulch heavier around the edges of the hole. Do not mound mulch up against the trunk.



***Root Flare - The root flare is the point on the tree where the top root protrudes from the trunk. To find the root flare, dig down on the trunk until you find the top root.**

Helpful Hints

- Backfill planting hole with native soil. For smaller plant material a mix can be used but shouldn't exceed 60% of backfill.
- Apply a root stimulator formulated to help the roots get established.
- Mycorrhiza is an extremely beneficial fungus that can be used at time of transplant to reduce transplant shock and assist with root development.

Staking

- Use two or three opposing stakes to secure the tree from falling over.
- Use tree tie webbing to attach the tree to the stakes with a bowline knot. Make sure straps are not suffocating the trunk. Allow tree to move a little to encourage root growth and stabilization.
- Do not use wire as it can gouge into the trunk causing damage or death.
- Typically remove stakes after 1 year.

Benefits of Mulching

- Helps keep soil cool and moist for optimal root health.
- Helps prevent weed growth and competition for water and nutrients.
- Helps prevent trunk injury from mowers and string trimmers.
- Recommended for at least two years after planting to help with transplant.

Bentley Ridge Tree Farm & Nursery Watering Guide

Proper watering is critical to the success of new plantings. Many factors contribute to a plant's need for water:

** Species' individual need for water * Topography * Drainage * Soil type * Weather *
* Time of year * Size of plant * Sun Exposure * Size of Planting Area **

For these reasons, there is no set rate of watering to give to everyone. **Successful watering is custom to each individual plant.** Always check soil moisture in between waterings to verify the soil moisture levels, this can be done by feeling the soil at a depth of 4 - 6" deep. If the soil feels tacky to the touch you may be able to hold off on watering for another day.

When to Water:

Freshly planted trees require more frequent waterings than established trees. They should be watered at time of planting, and the following guidelines will help you to establish a watering schedule.

- 💧 1-2 weeks after planting, water daily with approximately **3 Gallons**
- 💧 3-12 weeks after planting, water every 2 to 3 days with approximately **5 Gallons**
- 💧 12 weeks after planting, water 1- 2 times weekly throughout the first year with **5 - 10 Gallons**
- If rain occurs and soil feels moist at a depth of 4 - 6", you can skip a watering.
- When planting later in the season (ex. November - December), watering frequency will be reduced due to defoliation. Feel soil moisture at a depth of 4 - 6" to determine watering frequency.
- For smaller plant material reduce the amount of water, but keep a similar schedule as listed above.

Important Tips:

- **Standard lawn irrigation is rarely enough water for new plantings.** Supplemental waterings and regular moisture checks will be required to ensure that the plant has adequate moisture.
- **Irrigation spraying consistently on evergreens will kill the plants (and voids a warranty). Evergreens do not like to have water on their needles. Water evergreens at the base to avoid defoliation and death.**
- If you are going to be away on business or vacation, ask a friend or neighbor to water your new plantings while you are away. Do not assume rain will take care of it.
- **Continue to water your plants throughout the fall and into the winter until the ground freezes.** This is especially true of evergreens, which hold their foliage all winter long. If under-watered, they can suffer from winterburn. This might mean watering into the January window or sometimes even later. For soil temperatures around Iowa you can visit our website under the Delivery and Planting page and there will be a link for soil temperature.

Other Tips:

- There are many different ways to water your trees. **The key is to let the water soak in slowly.**
- If using a 5 gallon bucket with holes drilled in it, make sure to rotate the bucket around the tree, so that it is not getting watered on the same side of the plant during each watering.
- If using a hose, time out how long it takes to fill a 5 gallon bucket, and water your tree for that amount of time. Do not assume 5 minutes = 5 gallons.
- Evergreens need to dry out in between waterings, which may result in infrequent and sporadic watering times.
- Species such as the River Birch, Swamp White Oak, and Willows are able to uptake large amounts of water, so these may need watered more frequently.

Watering After the First Year:

Your plants require supplemental water as described above for the first year or two after planting. As a general rule, **monitor your tree's water needs for the number of years equal to the caliper at the time of planting** (Ex. 2" caliper tree requires at least two years of monitored watering after transplant). Start checking soil moisture each spring as early as March or April. After 2 - 3 years, little supplemental watering is necessary, with exceptions being drought or extreme heat events.