

# Planting GUIDE



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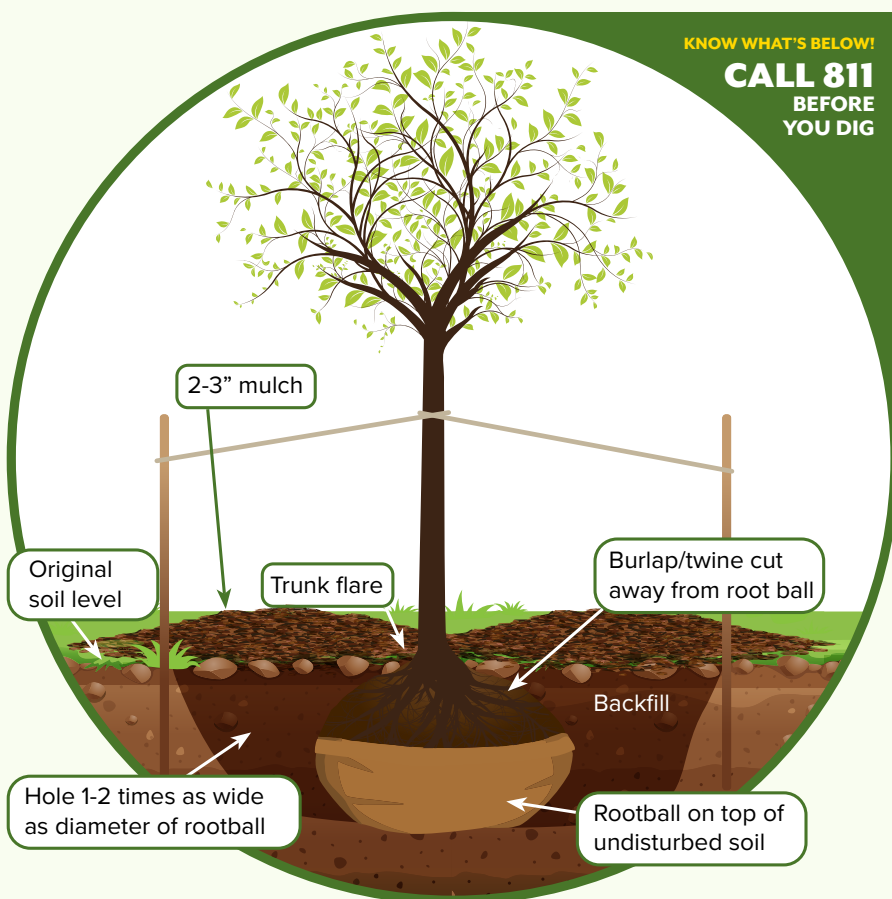
- 1** Dig the hole 1-2 times as wide as the diameter of the rootball.
- 2** Do not plant too deep! The hole should be the current depth or slightly less than the soil level in the container or burlap ball. Depending on the soil type – plant as deep (or slightly less deep in poorly drained soils) as the height of the rootball.
- 3** Mix no more than 10% of the backfill with compost, peat moss, or other organic matter to help improve soil quality – Blend well!
- 4** Occasionally, staking may be required when planting on a slope, in sandy soil, or in a windy, exposed location.
- 5** Add a 2-3" layer of mulch around the plant (never against the base of the trunk or over the trunk flare). This helps reduce water stress by retaining moisture, regulating soil temperature in winter, and controlling competition from grass and weeds.
- 6** Newly planted trees, shrubs, and perennials need special water attention for at least the first full year after planting. Once established supplemental watering may be needed in periods of drought.

## LURVEY PRO TIP

Learn the type of soil in your yard and how it drains or holds water during each season. If your home was constructed in the past five years, your soil may be heavy, compacted clay that doesn't drain and watering times and frequency should be reduced by half.

Dig a test hole 12" deep and wide and fill it with water.

If the hole doesn't fully drain within 15 minutes, you may have drainage problems that can lead to root rot.



## RECOMMENDED SOIL AMENDMENTS

- One-Step Soil Conditioner
- Peat Moss
- Espoma Biotone Starter



**ADDITIONAL  
PLANT CARE  
RESOURCES**

# Watering TIPS

## LURVEY PRO TIP

Most trees and shrubs should receive 1" to 1.5" (5-10 gallons) of water per week during the growing season. If the plants do not receive rain, manual watering should be provided. A typical garden hose on low to medium pressure, on a shower setting, will take about 5 minutes to produce 10 gallons of water.

## THE GOLDEN RULE

Avoid a watering routine.

**Never water without checking the soil first to see if watering is needed.**



- 1** **Water stress can result from either too much or too little water and is the #1 cause of poor plant growth and even death.** Keep in mind that symptoms of either type of water stress can look very similar.
- 2** The type of newly planted trees, shrubs, or perennials plus the time of year and temperature are all factors in determining how much water each plant will need. Learn the type of soil in your yard, and how it drains or holds water.
- 3** Water the soil at the base of the plant where the roots are. Avoid using overhead sprinklers, except when watering lawns. Soaker hoses or spot irrigation is the most effective, efficient, and economical.
- 4** Avoid shallow-rooted, wilt-prone plants and mildewed foliage with these TWO RULES when watering:
  - Water slowly and deeply rather than frequently and shallowly, to encourage deep root growth. Allow soil to dry slightly between watering, this will encourage roots to reach for water.
  - Water the ground, not the air or leaves. Very dry soil is slow to take up water so you may need to water one plant, go to the next and come back to the previous to be sure the water is able to soak into the ground.

## WATERING VOLUME & FREQUENCY

(Priority: Volume Over Frequency)

### TREES & SHRUBS:

**Amount of each Watering:** 2-3 minutes with the hose on low to medium shower at the base OR 1-1.5 hours with a soaker hose

**First Month:** Check soil moisture daily by hand or moisture meter (*water 2-3 times per week*)

**First & Second Season:** 1 time per week for the remainder of the growing season

### PERENNIALS:

**Amount of each Watering:** 30 seconds to 1 minute with the hose on a low shower at the base OR 30-45 minutes with a soaker hose

**First Two Weeks:** Check soil moisture daily (*water 3-4 times per week*)

**First & Second Season:** 1 time per week for the remainder of the growing season



## LURVEY PRO TIP

It is very important for your new plantings to be watered regularly. However, the type of soil and the weather conditions should determine how frequently and how much you water. Never water automatically or without first checking the soil to determine if watering is needed. To do this, use a trowel to test the moisture of your soil about 4-6 inches deep. If you find it is dry or only slightly damp, the plant should be watered. Sandy soils generally will need to be watered more frequently than clay soils.

**Remember to give all plants a deep watering just prior to the ground freezing** (around thanksgiving), regardless of their age!