

## Gardening Article

Properly placed and planted trees can be aesthetically, environmentally, and economically beneficial. Studies suggest carefully positioned trees can save up to 25% of a household's energy consumption for heating and cooling; as well as, provide shelter from wind, rain, and summer sun. But what good is proper tree placement, if the tree is planted incorrectly.

A properly planted tree or shrub will be more tolerant of adverse conditions and require much less management than one planted incorrectly. Correct planting technique begins with selecting and loading the tree from the nursery. Select the healthiest plant, if need be remove the plant from the container to examine the roots and check for insects. Once the plant is chosen, carefully load and secure the plant protecting it from the wind and sun.

Now that the plant has safely arrived at the sight and the planting area has been amended to meet the specific requirements of the plant, you are ready to prepare the planting hole. The hole should be dug 2-4 times wider than the rootball and be the same depth, backfilling slowly assuring there are no air pockets between the rootball and soil. For water efficiency an earthen dam 4-6 inches high should be built around the dripzone. Finally, you should water the plant approximately 4-6 inches deep.

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