

Recommendations for Transplanting Trees During the Growing Season:

- 1. Schedule carefully.** Your trees are well maintained while they are in the ground. Once dug, however, we cannot maintain the proper moisture level in the root balls, and the trees will begin to dry out while waiting to be picked up and re-planted. It is very difficult to get moisture back into the root balls once they have dried out. We try to schedule orders to be picked up within 24 hours of being dug, so that the root balls have plenty of moisture in them during shipping. The trees should be planted or healed in immediately on your jobsite.
- 2. Cover the leaves on your trees while traveling down the road.** The wind will burn your trees (wind-burn) if they are not covered with a tarp and will damage the leaves by drying them out while you are transporting them to your jobsite. Wind-burned trees will not look as fresh on your jobsite and will have a more difficult time getting re-established. We will help you secure your tarp over your load of trees.
- 3. Don't drop the balls.** We will have wire baskets around the root balls of your trees when you pick them up to help them maintain their shape and integrity during shipment, but the wire will not protect the root balls from damage if they are dropped or otherwise mistreated while being moved to their new location. Ideally your trees will get to their new location with the root balls in a tight and firm condition. We recommend leaving the wire baskets on when planting the trees if the root balls have become at all loose during transport. Keeping the integrity of the root ball is crucial to successfully transplanting your trees into the landscape.
- 4. Bury the ball, not the trunk.** The trees should be re-planted at (or slightly above) the depth they were grown at the nursery. If the crowns of the root balls are buried deeper than they were at the nursery, the trees will decline and will likely die within a couple of years. Trees can be planted at the proper depth, then sink as the soil under the ball settles and compacts and end up buried too deeply. Try to compact the soil directly under the ball and plant the trees slightly higher than the surrounding grade to compensate for the trees' sinking due to the weight of the root balls.
- 5. Water, water, water (but not too much).** Your trees will require frequent watering directly into the root balls when first planted, and careful monitoring the first year to maintain adequate moisture while they re-establish their feeder roots outside of the root ball, without saturating the soil. The trees will need to be deep watered until they re-establish enough new roots into the surrounding soil. A sprinkler system will not usually provide enough water directly into the root balls to keep them hydrated. Drip systems, and products like Gator Bags work well by watering the trees slowly enough that the root balls can absorb adequate water without over watering the surrounding area. This can also be achieved by building a temporary basin around the tree that can be filled with a garden hose for the first year or so, and then the basin can be flattened into the surrounding grade.
- 6. Stake your new trees.** You will want to stake your trees to keep them from moving and damaging the root ball while they are re-establishing roots into the surrounding soil.
- 7. Fertilize lightly the first year.** Use a transplant fertilizer that will encourage root growth for the first year to help your trees become established more quickly.