

Why Young Trees Die

Poor Planting Techniques *Do this instead:*

Cut Circling Roots— When planting potted trees be sure to check for circling roots and cut them vertically down the root ball in at least 4 locations around the ball.

Find The Trunk Flare— The trunk flare is where the trunk becomes wider and transitions to the roots. Often nurseries will bury the trunk flare so you may have to remove soil to find it.

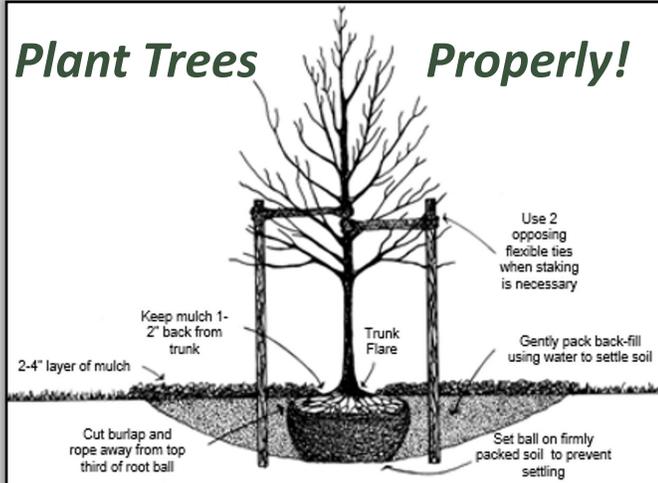
Remove Packaging Materials— Wire baskets, twine and as much of the burlap as possible should be discarded before planting.

Plant At The Proper Depth— Plant the tree with the trunk flare just above the soil line. Planting trees too deep suffocates the roots and encourages circling roots.



This potted tree has circling roots that must be cut prior to planting.

Plant Trees Properly!



Lack of Water Newly planted trees need extra water! Turf irrigation systems do not adequately sustain young trees. Young trees must be watered by hand or by using a drip system at a rate of 10 gallons per inch of stem caliper per week. Example: a 2 in. diameter tree should be receive 20 gallons of water, once per week. The tree should be watered slowly so water does not run-off and the root ball is thoroughly soaked.



This tree has been completely girdled as a result of continual mower and string trimmer damage.

Trunk Damage Lawn mowers and string trimmers are hard on trees! Young trees have very thin bark that is easily damaged. A reckless mower operator can kill several trees during one mowing cycle. Train staff to be careful with power equipment around trees.



The rock mulch beneath these trees reduces competition with turf and helps prevent damage from mowers and string trimmers.

Turf Competition Turf is a fierce competitor for available water and nutrients. Newly planted trees often die when sod is planted next to the trunk. Consider mulching a larger area around the tree with wood chips or rock and remove grass and weeds as they seed into mulched areas.



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