

# Planting Wire Basket Trees

1. Dig planting hole so top of root ball will be 1"-2" above surrounding soil when planting is complete. Diameter of planting hole should be at least one foot larger than the root ball diameter.
2. Using a bolt cutter, hacksaw, or suitable pliers, cut down one side of wire basket and roll tree out of basket.
3. Lay tree on its side. Use a utility knife to cut an "X" in the burlap on the bottom of the root ball. Note: If the root ball feels loose or crumbly, do not cut the burlap.
4. Gently roll tree into hole. Backfill the hole to 1/3 using a mixture of 1/3 topsoil and 2/3 Stauffers Planting Mix and tamp firmly.
5. Remove the excess burlap and any strings on top of the root ball. Finish filling hole, making sure top of root ball is 1"-2" above surrounding soil level.
6. Water root ball and surrounding soil thoroughly to settle soil and remove air pockets.
7. Add nutrients using a water-soluble plant starter, by pouring mixture onto root zone.
8. Stake tree if necessary using two stakes, wire and hose pieces to protect the trunk.
9. Top dress 2" deep with bark mulch, leaving 1"-2" of space between mulch and trunk of tree.

## Water Recommendations

Insufficient water during the first growing season is the number one cause of plant failure. The limited root system of your new tree will cause it to dry out faster than an established tree. Watering amounts and frequency can vary with plant types, planting locations, and weather conditions, and seasons. The following are guidelines for watering your new tree the first season:

Begin watering in spring, or as soon as the tree is planted, approximately once per week. Give the tree a "deep watering" by letting a hose run slowly at the base of the tree, allowing it to seep into the soil to a depth of 8" or more. Water again when soil is dry to the touch about 2" or knuckle deep.

Continue checking the soil and watering in this manner throughout the summer. In periods of little rain or drought, check soil and deep water frequently.

In the fall, give your tree a thorough soaking approximately every other week until frost.

In the case of a mid-winter thaw, check the soil and water thoroughly if needed. This should provide adequate moisture until the spring.

As always, the most important thing is to always check the soil before watering. If there are extended periods of rain or moisture throughout the spring, hose watering may not be necessary as frequently as in a drier spring. The goal of watering is to find a good balance - neither too wet nor too dry. Learn how long it takes your particular soil to dry slightly between waterings. Keep in mind both too little water (top moist and bottom dry) and too much water (constant saturation) can be fatal. When properly planted and cared for, your trees will prosper! Enjoy your new trees!