



The Shady Hill Gardening Tips Series
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Shady Hill Greenhouses and Nurseries
1 Adams Road
Londonderry, New Hampshire 03053
Phone Number: 603 □ 434 □ 2063
www.shadyhillgreenhouses.com

Planting Trees and Shrubs

Dig a hole approximately 8" to 12" larger than the size of the root ball of the plant.

Fill hole about half full with good loam or a planting mix of 1/3 top soil, 1/3 peat moss, and 1/3 cow manure. You can purchase bags of Complete Planting Mix containing all of the above.

Set the plant in the hole so that the top of the root ball is level with the soil line. Give the plant a good watering, then fill in firmly with more loam or planting mix. It is important that you do not plant too deep.

If planting a containerized plant, invert the container while firmly holding the stem of the plant and gently slide the plant out. It might be necessary to cut the pot or tap it with a shovel to loosen.

If planting a burlapped plant, cut the string holding the burlap and pull the burlap down around the sides. Also, if the plant has a wire basket, fold down the upper loops. Do not remove the burlap or the wire basket from the plant. This helps the root system to stay intact until the roots form outside the ball to support the plant.

Keep plant well watered, several times a week or as necessary, until the plant is well established.

You may also add a few inches of bark mulch around the base of the plant to retain moisture. Be careful not to mound mulch up around the stem as this could cause rot.