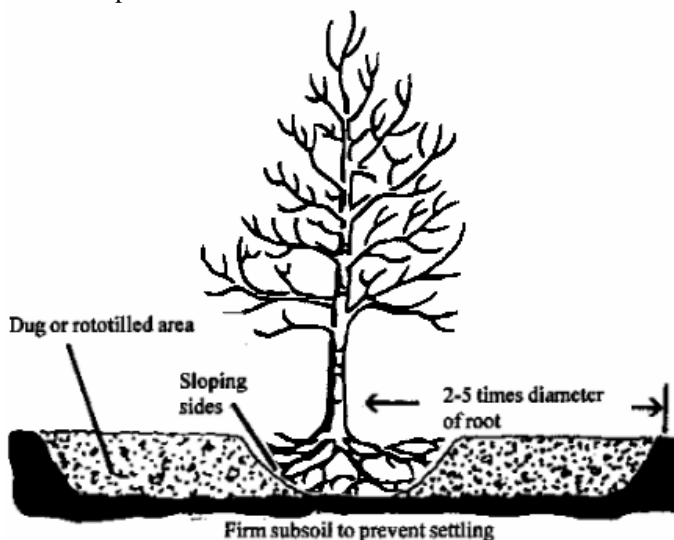


Planting Your Yoshino Cherry Trees

Keep roots moist! Depending on the trees and how long you must store them before planting, techniques to prevent drying vary. They include re-dampening the packing material around small bare root seedlings and storing in a refrigerator between 30-40 degrees F. Bare root trees of all sizes may also be stored by placing the roots and their packing material under loose soil in a shallow trench. The garden often is a handy place to do this. While actually planting, continue to protect the roots from wind and sun by wrapping in wet burlap or carrying in a bucket with a mud, moss or sawdust solution (not pure water).

The Planting Hole

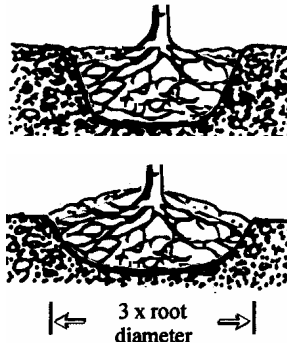
More than any other change in tree planting procedures is the new focus on the planting hole. It can be summed up by the saying, "Don't plant a \$100 tree in a \$10 hole!" Proper preparation will encourage root growth rather than adding to the difficulties already challenging the young tree. Here's the way to give your tree a boost toward rapid growth and recovery from transplant shock.



This method recognizes the fact that most roots spread through the top 12" of soil in a wide periphery around the tree. Therefore, slope the sides of the hole and dig or deeply rototill an area around the hole at least twice the diameter of the spread of the young tree's roots. An area up to five times the diameter is recommended if the soil is particularly compacted, the roots of other trees will not be damaged, and space and aesthetics allow.

Call Before You Dig!

Before digging, always contact your local utility offices. In most areas, the utilities offer to locate and stake underground cables and pipes at no cost to you.



How Deep Should You Plant?

- Under normal conditions, root growth is best encouraged by planting even with the surrounding terrain.
- When wet conditions or heavy soil are problems, raising about 1/3 of the roots above ground will aid the spread of lateral roots.

Filling the Hole

Backfill with native soil. Tamp gently and add water to fill large air spaces and to give your tree its first good drink in its new home. As the tree grows, be sure to water the surrounding soil area to encourage root spread.

Watering

Watering is the key to tree survival. It should be used when filling the planting hole to eliminate large air cavities, firm the soil around fine roots, and provide nourishment for the new tree. During planting, bare-root trees can be dipped in water-absorbing polymers. This amazing chemical comes under a variety of brand names and is available from nurseries. Its function is to attract water when abundant and hold it longer than soil when conditions get dry. It can also be used with ballad and burlapped trees, being mixed with the backfill. The effects last for about two years. With or without the aid of polymers, water deeply around your tree once a week during warm, dry spells.

Fertilizing

Avoid fertilizing shade trees until late spring of the second year following planting. Fertilizers can "burn" roots or stimulate crown growth faster than the roots can supply water.

Mulch

Mulch is a young tree's best friend. It holds down competing weeds or grass, retains soil moisture, prevents soil cracking that can damage new roots, protects the trunk from lawnmower damage, and helps prevent soil compaction. Organic mulches such as wood chips or pine needles also contribute to better soil structure and aeration as they decompose. Avoid limestone rock and allow no mulch to touch the tree's trunk or be piled higher than 2 to 3 inches.

Good Luck With Your Trees!