

# GREAT PLAINS NURSERY

3074 County Road I ••• Weston, NE 68070

## Proper Tree Planting

**1. Pre-Planting:** Trees can be kept in the RootTrapper® bag or Rootmaker® container for a couple of weeks.

After purchasing our trees, maintain the moisture level until installation. Stick your finger in the potting mix to check the moisture in it and water when dry. Water until it runs out the bottom of the bag or container. Check the trees at least once a day to see if they need watered. Keep the trees in a cool, shaded place until installed. Check to make sure that the root flare is still visible.

**5. Staking:** If you are in a protected site, staking is not necessary. If you are planting in a wind tunnel, drive a stake at a 45 degree angle about knee high into the ground and secure it with a quick tie in a figure 8 style to help hold the root ball in place. The main objective of staking is to stabilize the root ball. After staking the tree, some sway is allowed. This helps promote caliper growth. Remove the staking system after one year because healthy roots should be established by then.

**2. Digging:** Measure the distance from the bottom of the root ball to the flare/root transition. That is how deep you need to dig the hole for the tree. The hole should also be twice the size of the root ball. Make sure that the bottom of the hole is firm so that there isn't anymore settling when the tree is planted. Using a shovel, dig the correct size of hole and place the dug soil near the hole so that it is easy to move back to the hole when backfilling.

**6. Watering:** Trees need a good deep watering once a week for the first year to help them establish. We generally recommend one inch of water per week. If it rains an inch that week, you can skip watering. Stick your finger in the soil to check the moisture in it and decide if you need to water or not. A 5-gallon bucket with a small hole drilled in the bottom that allows water to drain slowly is a good way to water your tree.

**3. Planting/Backfill:** Position the tree so that all the roots are able to grow out into the surrounding soil. When planting a Rootmaker® or RootTrapper® tree, simply remove the bag or container. Backfill with the original soil that was dug. Create a small berm around the perimeter of the hole to help collect water. If planting on a slope, make the berm on the downhill side so the water can be collected.

**4. Mulching:** Apply a 3 feet diameter mulch ring that is 2 inches deep. Keep the mulch 2 inches away from the trunk of the tree to prevent decay. Mulching helps reduce competition from other plants such as turf and weeds. It also helps retain moisture during the hot summer months and dry winter months. **DO NOT** apply so much mulch that there is a 'volcano'. **DO NOT** use rocks or use plastic weed barriers under the mulch.

## RootTrapper® Tree Planting Detail

\*For a video on how to remove the RootTrapper® bag, scan this QR code with your phone:

