

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 prior to planting. After purchase, maintain the moisture level until installation. Check the trees at least once a day to see if they need water. Keep the trees in a cool, shaded place until installed.

2. Digging: Measure the distance from the bottom of the root ball to the flare/root transition.—this is the depth of your hole. The hole should be twice as wide as the root ball. Make sure that the bottom of the hole is firm so that the tree doesn't settle after planted. After digging the hole, keep the soil close to use as backfill around the new tree. If soil amending needs to be done, amend the excavated soil prior to backfilling.

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 create a basin and help collect water so it can soak in slowly. If planting on a slope, make the berm on the downhill side so the water can be collected.

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

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



5. Staking: The type of staking depends on the size of tree being planted and if you are in a protected site, staking may not be necessary.

#3 & #5 RM: If staking is needed, drive a bamboo or fiberglass stake vertically, next to the trunk of the tree. Secure to the trunk and new growth with rubber T-bands. The main objective here is to guide the vigorous new growth to be a straight trunk.

#7 & #15 RT bag: If staking is needed, drive (2) t-posts into the ground on opposite sides of the tree, 18-24" away from the trunk - be sure they are in solid, undisturbed soil. Use Tree Straps & wire to secure the tree to the t-posts. The main objective is to stabilize the root ball. Some sway is allowed—this helps promote caliper growth and encourages

6. Watering: Give a deep soaking at time of planting, then again 2 days later. Trees need a good, deep watering once a week for the first year to establish. We generally recommend one inch or 5-7 gallons of water per week. If it rains an inch that week, you can skip watering. Check the soil moisture to determine if watering is needed.

