

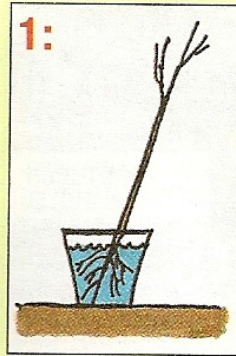
Plant Correctly

Monday, April 2nd, 2012

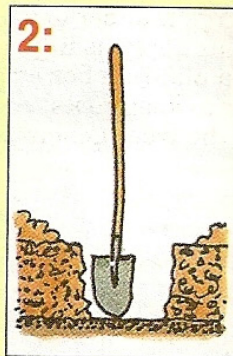
If you plant a tree this week/month in honor of Arbor Day, Be sure it is planted correctly so it will get off to a good start. The following illustrations should help guide you, if you are unfamiliar with techniques for proper planting.

Planting Bare-Root Trees

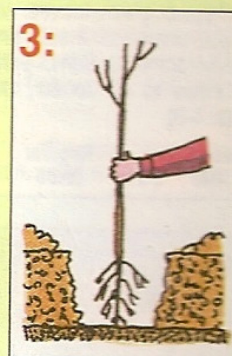
It is best to plant bare-root trees immediately, in order to keep the fragile roots from drying out. If you can't plant because of weather or soil conditions, store the trees in a cool place and keep the roots moist.



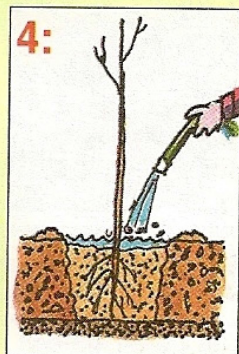
1: Unpack tree and soak in water 3 to 6 hours. Do not plant with packing material attached to roots and do not allow roots to dry out.



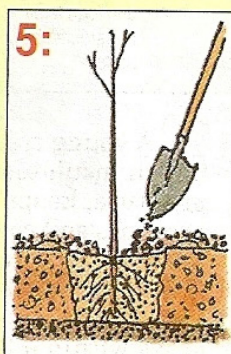
2: Dig a hole, wider than seems necessary, so the roots can spread without crowding. Remove any grass within a 3-foot circular area. To aid root growth, turn soil in an area up to 3 feet in diameter.



3: Plant the tree at the same depth it stood in the nursery, without crowding the roots. Partially fill the hole, firming the soil around the lower roots. Do not add soil amendments, such as peat or bark.



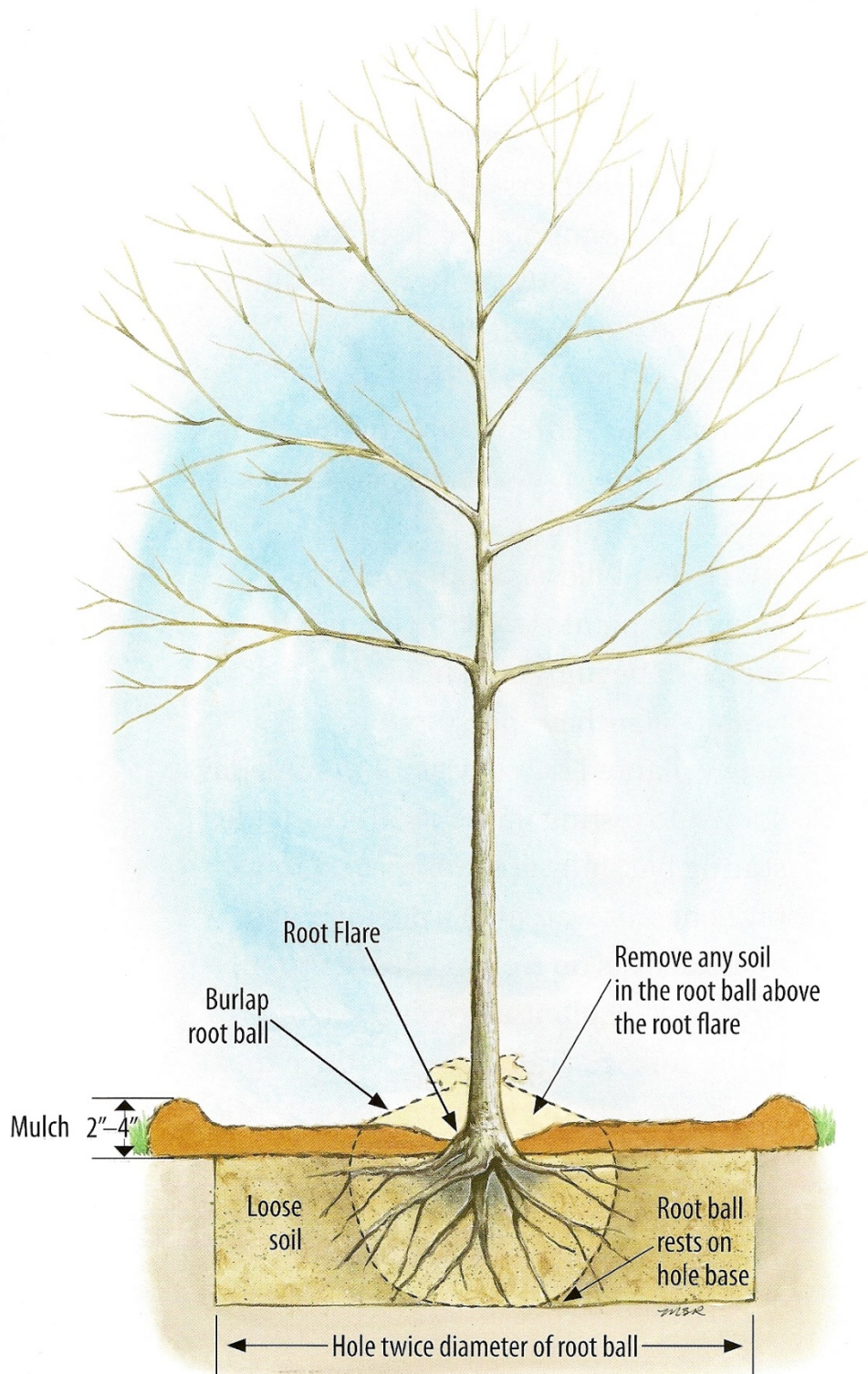
4: Shovel in the remaining soil. It should be firmly but not tightly packed. Construct a water-holding basin around the tree. Give the tree plenty of water.



5: After the water has soaked in, place a 2-inch deep protective mulch in an area 3 feet in diameter around the base of the tree (but not touching the trunk.)



6: During dry weather, generously water the tree every week or 10 days during the first year. Water slowly at the dripline.





Balled and Burlapped



Container Grown



Bare Root

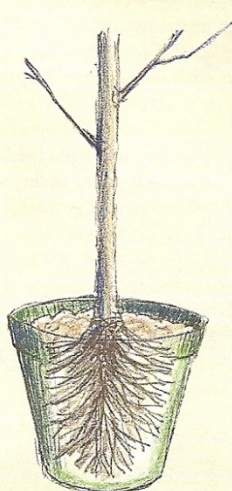


Potted

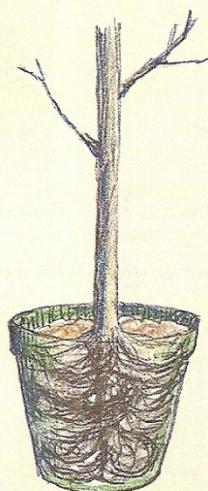
Beware of Girdling Roots!

Southern magnolia is a tree that is particularly susceptible to a problem called "girdling" or "circling" roots. This condition occurs when transplanted trees remain too long in a pot or can. The roots try to grow but run into the side of the container. Since they have nowhere else to go, they follow the outline of the container in a circular pattern.

The old saying, "As the twig is bent, so grows the tree," applies not only to branches and children, but to roots as well. When a tree with circling roots is removed from the container and planted, unless special care is taken the roots will continue to grow in a circular track. As their diameter increases, they can become constricted, cutting off the normal flow of water and nutrients. This can lead to decline and death. Circling roots also deprive the tree of stability, making it prone to falling in the wind.

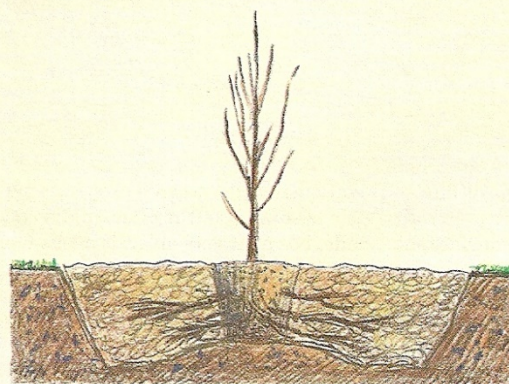


Better



Worse

When possible, avoid buying nursery stock that has been in containers too long (as evidenced by circling roots).



To correct potted trees with circling roots:

- ✓ Remove container or wrapping material
- ✓ Plant on a firm, raised bottom of the hole
- ✓ Carefully spread out the circling roots to as close to a right angle with the trunk as possible
- ✓ Cut (smoothly) any roots that are too severely circled to straighten, especially near the top of the soil ball
- ✓ Fill hole while holding roots in place
- ✓ Mulch and water