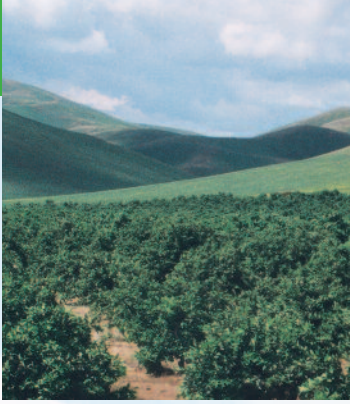


PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS



The day of planting is the most important day for your new grove. At TreeSource, we work for many months to insure the best quality trees leave our nursery. Unfortunately, the trees can be damaged in just a few seconds on the day of planting and we would like to help you prevent this.

If you use a planting crew as is illustrated below, you will need a field forklift, tractor(s), bin trailer(s), and at least 4 workers to support the crew. Double check the air in your trailer tires, because the trees are heavy. We have shown “shovel planting,” the most common method of planting. When accomplished by an expert crew, it is common for a tree to be planted every 30 seconds! This means you must start spreading the trees in the pre-marked field at least 2 hours before the crew arrives. Remember that ball & burlap trees dry out quickly, so don't start the day before planting. **Call us at (559) 592-2304 if you need more information.**

1 The trees arrive in TreeSource bins. A good field forklift is essential to support the planting. Early morning deliveries are the norm and we don't deliver on Sundays. We ask that you return the bins to TreeSource no later than 2 weeks after the delivery.



2 A tractor driver, a tree handler that rides in the trailer, and 2 walkers are required to spread trees. They can do 2 rows at a time. Make sure they don't drop the trees! This photo shows how to properly place them to avoid damaging the root system. If you want to spread trees faster, add more equipment and another 4-person crew.



3 Your field should be weed free and recently tilled. Lay out the hose and install the sprinklers in advance. Pre-irrigation may be required 2 days prior to planting and the trees must be watered in immediately after planting. The tree can be laid on its side or as indicated.



4 When placing trees, allow room for digging the hole. Note the drinking straw that marks the planting location. Marking the field is done in advance of the day of planting, is commonly done by the planting crew, and is included in their contracted price for the planting.



5 The soil needs to be moist but not wet. Too wet and the soil may stick to the shovel, too dry and it may be too hard or the hole will cave in as it is dug. Your planting day could turn into a disaster if the soil is not properly prepared.



6 Make sure the crew cuts the twine at the top of the burlap. The burlap is NOT removed since it does not inhibit root growth and will decompose quickly. A grape knife works best and is also used to cut off the plastic container of a potted tree.



7 For B & B trees, the top of the rootball should be 2 inches below ground level. Adobe and hardpan soils are tough to dig, so make sure the planters are digging the hole deep enough. For potted trees, plant at ground level to insure the soil mix has direct access to irrigations.



8 After the tree is in the hole, soil is piled over the rootball. This must occur BEFORE the worker steps on it. If he steps on the rootball before the soil, the hole is too shallow and he's stomping on the ball to make it fit the hole. This breaks off the roots and can delay the tree's growth. Watch this carefully during the entire day of planting!



9 Prior to packing in the tree with his feet, the worker's shovel should be used to tamp the tree in. He shoves the blade into the area between the rootball and the side of the hole (not shown). It requires about three well-placed thrusts, which reduces air gaps and helps settle the tree. This step is often ignored, and it is up to you to decide if you want to insure they do it. **NOW WATER THE TREES IN!**



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