

**TREES & SHRUBS**

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# PLANTING GUIDE



1370 Almshouse Road • Ivyland, PA 18974  
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[farmandgardenstation.com](http://farmandgardenstation.com)



# PLANTING TREES & SHRUBS

## BEFORE YOU PLANT

Always plant in well-drained soil. To test for soil drainage, dig a hole one foot deep by one foot wide. Fill the hole with water and allow it to drain. After it drains, fill it again. Measure the rate of drainage every hour. Ideal drainage is 2 inches per hour with 1 to 3 inches per hour being acceptable.

## THE PLANT



Trees and shrubs generally come in two forms: ball and burlapped (B&B), or containerized. Both can be planted anytime the ground is not frozen or too wet. It is advised to not plant during excessively hot weather or during severe drought. It

is advantageous to the health of your tree or shrub if you plant it immediately after purchase. If you can't plant it right away, place it in a shady and/or sheltered location. Keep the root ball or container moist until planting time.





## THE PLANTING HOLE



Dig your planting hole twice as wide and approximately the same depth as the plant's root mass or container. We recommend mixing **Coast of Maine<sup>®</sup>**

**Penobscot Blend<sup>™</sup> Planting Mix** into the excavated soil, creating a 70/30 soil and compost blend. To ensure a perfect planting environment, add **Espoma<sup>®</sup> Bio-tone<sup>®</sup> Starter**, a bioactive plant food with beneficial bacteria and humates. If planning to plant your shrub or small tree into an outdoor container, make sure the container is large enough to support your specimen and that it provides ample drainage. We recommend using **Coast of Maine<sup>®</sup> Bar Harbor Blend<sup>™</sup> Potting Soil** for all tree and shrub container plantings.

## PLACING YOUR PLANT IN THE HOLE

### **BALLED & BURLAP PLANTS:**

Keep the wire basket intact, and **DO NOT** remove it. Once the enriched soil has been placed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up the root ball, cut and fold down the top  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the basket and burlap, and remove any strings around the tree trunk. Fill the remaining hole with enriched soil to its original level.





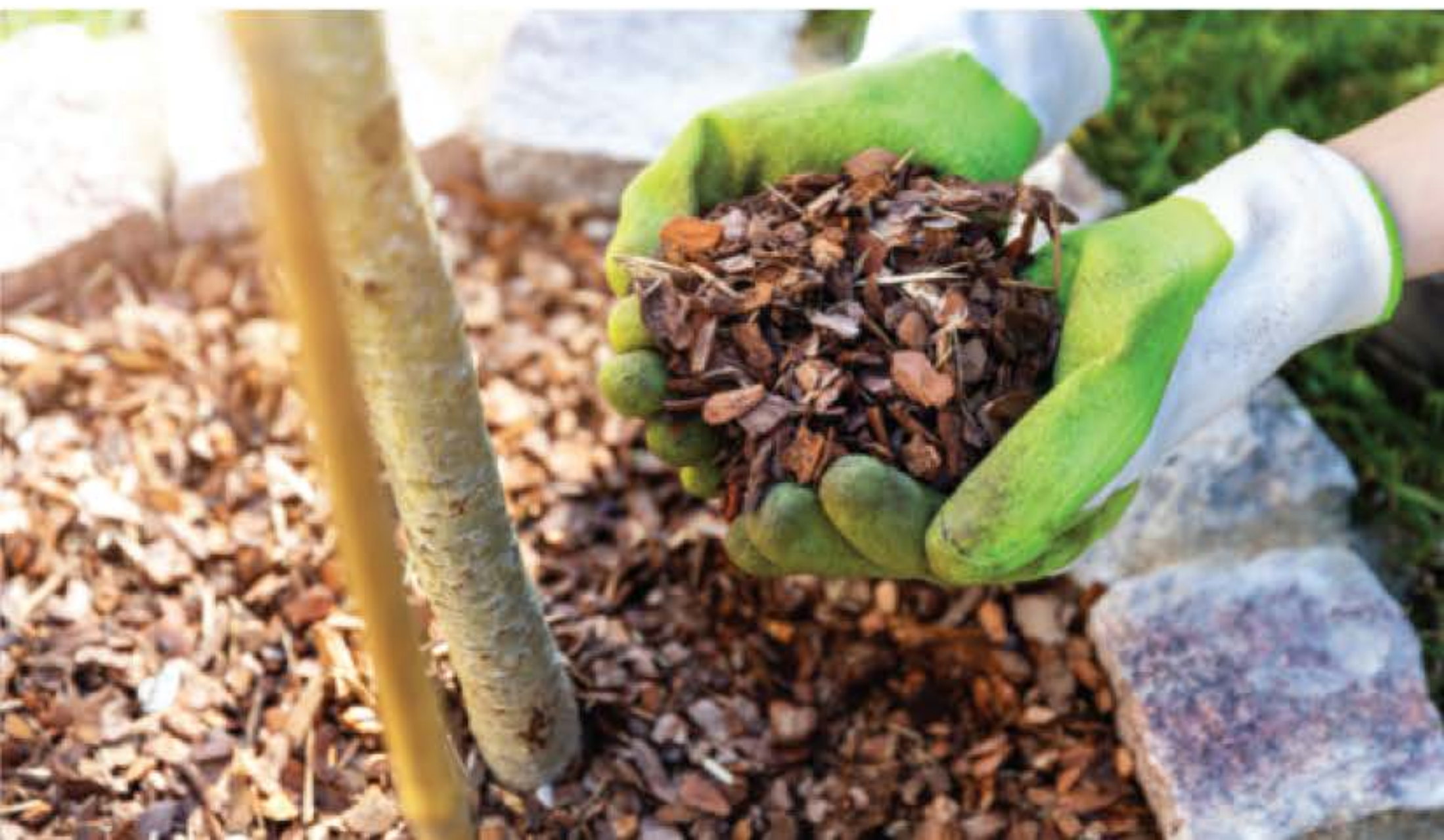
## CONTAINER PLANTS:

Ease the pot off without disturbing the root ball. You will then need to make a few shallow cuts on the side and bottom of the root ball and loosen the roots. Don't be afraid; you will not hurt the roots!



## FINISHING UP

Use the excess soil mixture to create a shallow ring around the outer edge of the planting ring to prevent water run-off. Water in your plant. Mulch the planting area with two inches of mulch. This will help retain soil moisture, keep weeds at bay, and protect the plant from lawn mowers. Be certain not to pile the mulch up against the trunk or stem of the plant, as it can promote disease and attract pests. Fertilize your tree or shrub every six months with the appropriate **Espoma**<sup>®</sup> fertilizer for your plant to ensure the health of the plant as it establishes in the landscape. **Espoma**<sup>®</sup> plant food is an organic, premium blend of fertilizer that will continually feed your newly planted tree or shrub.







## WATERING

Water your newly planted trees and shrubs by using a soaker hose or soaker ring inside the planting ring following the guidelines below. If using a regular hose, make sure it is turned on low, allowing for a trickle of water. This slow, deep watering method will promote long, strong, and healthy root development. The roots of newly planted containerized plants dry out faster than the soil around them, so it is important to frequently monitor the soil for one year. Automatic irrigation systems do not adequately water newly planted trees and shrubs, so avoid relying on them to properly water your plant.



### GENERAL WATERING GUIDELINES:

- 1 gal. :** Slow trickle for approx. 10-15 minutes
- 2 gal. :** Slow trickle for approx. 15-20 minutes
- 3 gal. :** Slow trickle for approx. 20-30 minutes
- 4 gal. - 7 gal. :** Slow trickle for approx. 30-45 minutes
- B&B :** Slow trickle for 45 minutes, switching sides if necessary

*Remember, if it rains, it may not necessarily be enough water for a newly planted shrub or tree. Until we get at least a half inch or more of rain, it probably isn't enough.*



# RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS FOR SUCCESSFULLY PLANTING TREES & SHRUBS



## WE'RE HERE TO HELP

If you suspect a problem with your tree or shrub, bring a sample of the problem, along with any photos of the tree or shrub, to Farm & Garden Station for diagnosis and suggested remedies.



**FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED IN IVYLAND, PA  
SINCE 2002**

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