

# Tree Planting Specifications for the City of Fort Worth

These specifications are to be used when planting trees or large shrubs on Fort Worth Property.

No trees are to be planted in a public open space easement (P.O.S.E.) as described by Section 10, Landscaping in Roadway Medians and Parkways.

## **Balled and Burlapped (B&B)**

- Shall only be planted during the dormant season after leaf fall in the autumn and before bud break in the spring.
- Purchased trees should be locally grown stock. Trees from outside the state should be avoided.
- Trees to be held on site longer than 24 hours before planting should be held in the shade or with enough mulch to cover the root ball. The root ball shall be sufficiently watered to prevent drying.
- ***Trees provided by the city shall be planted within 24 hours of delivery or pick-up.***
- The planting hole should be no deeper than the root ball, but 3-5 times wider.
- The sides of the hole should be scarified to break glazing.
- Do not place sand or gravel in the planting hole; it does not improve drainage and can have the opposite effect.
- Check the root ball for soil added above the root flare by the nursery at time of digging. If present, remove added soil to the root flare.
- Trees shall be moved by handles on basket or by strapping placed around the root ball. Trees shall not be lifted by the trunk or limbs.
- Where drainage is poor the tree may be planted with the root flare 1" above grade. In all other instances the root flare should be placed at ground level. In no instance shall the root flare be placed below grade.
- Once tree is placed in planting hole, remove treated burlap completely. Untreated burlap shall be folded or cut away from the top 1/3 of the root ball.
- Any existing wire basket should be cut from the top 1/3 of the root ball.
- Remove all rope, tags, and tree wrap from trunk and limbs.
- Use the same soil to fill the planting hole as was removed from it. Use no amendments.
- Fill the planting hole by 1/2, gently tap soil, and water to remove air pockets. Continue filling, tapping, and watering until the soil is at grade.
- Use remaining soil to build a watering berm just outside the original planting hole.
- Place a 2-4" layer of mulch within the watering ring. Place no mulch within 2" of the trunk.
- Staking and guying should only be used in areas of high wind or when trees will not stand on their own. When guying is not required, staking alone may be used to reduce lawnmower damage.
- Trees shall be guyed loosely enough to allow trunk to sway from the base.
- All guying materials shall be removed within one year, and tree guards shall be placed around trunks at the time.
- Large canopy or shade trees shall be planted a minimum of 25' apart, and small or ornamental trees shall be planted a minimum of 15' apart.
- Shade trees and large ornamentals should have a minimum 5' x 5' surface area planting space and a permeable soil depth of not less than 3'. Small trees should have a minimum 4' x 4' surface area planting space and a permeable soil depth of not less than 2'.

(continued)

# Tree Planting Specifications for the City of Fort Worth (cont'd.)

## Container Grown Trees and Shrubs

- May be planted during any season.
- The planting hole should be no deeper than the root ball, but 3-5 times wider.
- Do not place sand or gravel in the planting hole, it does not improve drainage and can have the opposite effect.
- Trees shall be lifted by the container or by supporting the bare root ball. Trees shall not be lifted by the trunk or limbs.
- Loosen the root ball from container and place in planting hole.
- Slice the root ball vertically 2-3 times with a sharp knife to discourage circling roots.
- Where drainage is poor the tree may be planted with the root flare 1" above grade. In all other instances the root flare should be placed at ground level. In no instance shall the root flare be placed below grade.
- Remove all rope, tags, and tree wrap from trunk and limbs.
- Use the same soil to fill the planting hole as was removed from it. Use no amendments.
- Fill the planting hole by ½, gently tap soil, and water to remove air pockets. Continue filling, tapping, and watering until the soil is at grade.
- Use remaining soil to build a watering berm just outside the original planting hole.
- Place a 2-4" layer of mulch within the watering ring. Place no mulch within 2" of the trunk.
- ***If containerized trees are provided by the City, return all empty containers to the Forestry Section.***
- Staking and guying should only be used in areas of high wind or when trees will not stand on their own. When guying is not required, staking alone may be used to reduce lawnmower damage.
- Trees shall be guyed loosely enough to allow trunk to sway from the base.
- All guying materials shall be removed within one year.
- Large canopy or shade trees shall be planted a minimum of 25' apart, and small or ornamental trees shall be planted a minimum of 15' apart.
- Large shade trees require a 5' x 5' minimum planting space, ornamentals require a 4' x 4' minimum.