



NEVER PLACE ANY SOIL OVER THE ROOT BALL. THE ROOT BALL SHOULD BE POSITIONED IN THE HOLE SHALLOW ENOUGH SO THE FINISHED GRADE OF THE BACKFILL SOIL DOES NOT REACH THE TOP. IN OTHER WORDS, LEAVE THE TOP FEW INCHES OF THE ROOT BALL SIDES EXPOSED TO THE AIR. MULCH WILL COVER THE REMAINING COUPLE INCHES. THE TOP OF THE ROOT BALL SHOULD BE SEVERAL INCHES HIGHER THAN THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE SOIL. BE SURE THAT WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED PLANTING, THERE IS **NO SOIL** OVER THE ROOT BALL. SOIL (AS WELL AS THICK MULCH LAYERS MORE THAN 3 INCHES DEEP) OVER THE ROOT BALL CAN PREVENT WATER AND AIR FROM ENTERING THE ROOT BALL. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THE TOP-MOST ROOT ORIGINATING FROM THE TRUNK AT THE SOIL SURFACE OR WITHIN THE TOP INCH OF SOIL IN THE ROOT BALL. THE TRUNK FLARE SHOULD BE VISIBLE.

MULCH SHOULD COVER ONLY THE EDGE OF THE ROOT BALL, SINCE THICK LAYERS OVER THE ROOT BALL CAN KEEP THE TRUNK TOO MOIST OR TOO DRY AND CAN CAUSE OTHER PROBLEMS. LOCATE THE IRRIGATION DEVICE SO IT DELIVERS WATER DIRECTLY TO THE ROOT BALL. THERE IS USUALLY NO NEED TO WATER AREAS OUTSIDE THE ROOT BALL. NO AMENDMENTS OF ANY KIND ARE NECESSARY IN THE BACKFILL SOIL, BECAUSE EXTENSIVE RESEARCH CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THEY TYPICALLY DO NOT INCREASE THE SURVIVAL, NOR GROWTH AFTER PLANTING. NO SOIL BERM IS NEEDED IF TREES WILL BE IRRIGATED WITH A LOW-VOLUME DEVICE. PLACE THE BERM AT THE EDGE OF THE ROOT BALL IF THE ROOT BALL IS FINER TEXTURE THAN THE BACKFILL SOIL. THIS WILL HELP INSURE THAT WATER PERCOLATES INTO THE ROOT BALL.

STANDARD CONSTRUCTION DETAIL
PLANT LIKE THIS DETAIL

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