

Congratulations on the purchase of your new trees and/or shrubs! Your new plants will need extra care for the first two years while they are establishing healthy root systems. Below is an explanation of The Covington's planting procedure, watering schedule and maintenance instructions. Please call us if you have any questions.



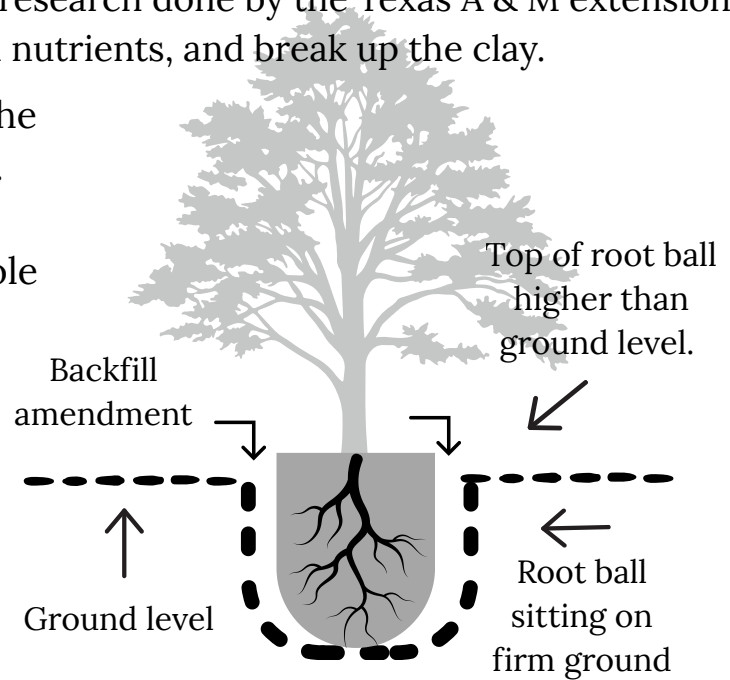
Planting

Our soil in North Texas is thick, alkaline clay. It lacks nutrients and acidity, and doesn't drain well. We recommend amending your soil with **Covington's Soil Builder**, a compost/shale/green sand amendment based off research done by the Texas A & M extension office. This will help acidify the soil, add nutrients, and break up the clay.

Dig your hole. Have a large container and mix the native soil you dig up 50/50 with Soil Builder.

This is the amendment mix you will back-fill under and around the root ball. The depth of hole will be based on the size of the root ball.

Start backfilling **amendment** mix in the bottom of the hole, adding or subtracting so that when you place the root ball in, the top of it is sitting and inch or two above ground. Level the amendment mound so it's flat. Make sure the root flare is exposed, and not covered in soil.



Cut any roots that are circling the ball, and loosen it up a little. Drop the root ball in, making sure it's **above grade**, and then backfill the compost amendment on the sides of the root ball. Pack it down so that the root ball is firmly in place. **Do NOT plant too deep!**

Feed your trees and shrubs after planting, using Covington's 12-6-6 Tree & Shrub Fertilizer. Sprinkle over the entire root ball and water in well.

Mulch over the entire root ball at a depth of 2 inches. This will protect the roots from heat and cold, and help retain moisture in hotter months.

Stake your tree, or large shrub, especially if you live in a wind-prone area. Keep these in for 1 to 2 years while roots are establishing.

Wrap your tree trunk with Tree Wrap for the first two summers (or until the canopy can shade the trunk) to help prevent Sun Scald. Wrap should be removed the rest of the year.

Watering Schedule for New Trees & Shrubs

To ensure the health of your new plants, make sure the entire root ball is getting a good, deep soak. A lot of sprinkler systems only deliver water to the top few inches of soil, so **deep hand-watering** is recommended as a substitute or supplement.

DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY

Water every 2 weeks if we don't have rain

Note: Be sure to water all your plants before a hard freeze (excluding agave and cactus).

HIGH TEMPERATURE UNDER 75°F

Thoroughly hand soak entire root ball 1 time per week

HIGH TEMPERATURE 75-85°F

Hand soak 1-2 times a week OR Sprinklers 3 times & hand soak 1 time a week.



HIGH TEMPERATURE 85-95°F

Hand soak 2-3 times a week OR Sprinklers 3-4 times & hand soak 1-2 times a week.

Note: During drought & excessive heat it may be necessary to water every day.

HIGH TEMPERATURE OVER 95°F

Hand soak 4-5 times a week OR Sprinklers daily & hand soak 2 times a week

Note: During drought & excessive heat it may be necessary to water every day.

YUCCA, AGAVE, CACTUS, & SUCCULENT WATERING SCHEDULE

During the Summer months, only water them **once per week** if we do not get any rainfall. During the rest of the year, we usually receive enough rainfall to keep them happy, so it's not necessary to water. **Do Not** water before a freeze.

Fertilizing Schedule

Feed your trees & shrubs with Covington's 12-6-6 Tree & Shrub Fertilizer 3 times a year. We recommend doing this March, May & September or **every 3 months** in the growing season. Do not fertilize in Winter. Additional light applications may be applied, especially after a very rainy spring, or a very hot summer that requires additional watering. Use 1 cup per 25 square feet of bed, or for trees use a ½ cup per caliper inch. Be sure to water thoroughly after fertilizing.

Pest Control & Prevention

There are different treatments for different insects, but Bonide or Ferti-lome **Insecticidal Drench** can take care of many of them. Apply the drench in Spring, or right after planting, to prevent any chewing, sucking or boring pests. Apply any time you see an infestation.