

## **TREE & SHRUB WARRANTY**

Russell's takes pride in selling healthy trees and shrubs that are true to name. However, it is not always possible to anticipate factors affecting the growth and wellbeing of your plants.

## We warranty trees and shrubs for 6 MONTHS FROM THE DAY OF PURCHASE. Plants are guaranteed to be true to name. We issue a one time store credit equal to the purchase price for any dead trees and shrubs covered by the warranty agreement.

**Please note:** Trees and shrubs should be planted within 7-10 days of purchase for warranty eligibility. Until that time, store them in a semi-shaded area and don't allow them to dry out.

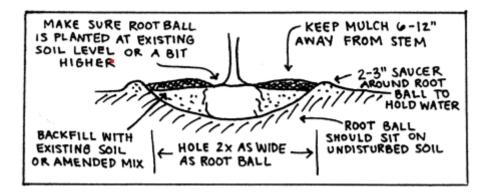
## Warranty Agreement does not cover:

- Plants affected by:
  - weather related events (drought, flooding, hail, above average heat/cold or excessively wet/dry conditions, water bans, etc.)
  - airborne pest and diseases (fungal leaf spot, aphids, etc)
  - animal browsing or mechanical damage
- Plants planted in containers such as window boxes, planters, etc.
- Plants purchased at clearance or final sale prices
- Plants with no receipt or proof of purchase
- Roses
- Plants that may have suffered in appearance but are capable of recovering with proper care.
- Plants will not be warrantied if the Planting Instructions (see pg. 2) have not been followed (lack of watering, improper care, improper or delayed planting, etc.)

Our nursery staff wants to make sure that your plants will thrive in your garden. We recommend that you *call us at the first sign of any trouble with your plant.* Please call 508-358-2283 (x330) or email <u>treesandshrubs@russellsgc.com</u>. If emailing photos, please send a picture of the whole plant along with any closeup photos of the areas that concern you (leaves, trunk, branches).

## **TREE & SHRUB PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS**

**1.** Dig a hole 2 to 3 times wider than the container. The hole should have sloping sides like a saucer to allow for proper root growth. Do not dig or loosen the soil deeper than necessary, the plant should have a firm foundation.



**2.** Carefully remove the plant from the container keeping the soil around the roots intact. It helps to water first and then tap the outside of the container to loosen the edge.

**3.** Sometimes containerized plants become root-bound or the roots look like they're about to circle the root ball. If your plant is like this, gently tease the roots loose and cut the encircling roots with clean pruners.

**4.** Set the tree or shrub in the middle of the hole. Avoid planting too deep! The soil level, when potted, should be slightly above ground level. Using some soil, secure the plant in a straight position, then fill and firmly pack the hole with the original soil (can slightly amend with compost), making sure there aren't any air pockets. Keep backfilling until the soil is just below the root collar.

**5.** Newly installed plants must receive adequate water during the first growing season to become established. The exact amount of water to apply each time and how often is based on the site specific factors such as soil conditions at the site versus the soil in the container or root ball, sun/ shade, wind, ground slope, root competition along with proper planting practices.Create a water-holding basin around the hole and give the plant a good, deep watering. After the water has soaked in, spread protective mulch 2 inches deep in a 3-foot diameter area around the base of the plant, but not touching the trunk.The soil and mulch around your plant should be kept moist but not soggy. Keeping your plant watered is important. Water slowly at the dripline. Allow water to penetrate down to all of the root ball. Lawn Sprinklers are not sufficient irrigation.

6. Remove any tags and labels from the plant as these will affect its growth.

**Staking:** Large size trees and those with thin trunks may benefit from being staked. A small tree can be easily supported with a single sturdy stake. Russell's offers a range of staking kits. Larger specimens will likely need support from 2 or 3 directions. It is important to make sure any guying material does not injure the bark or restrict future growth of the plant. Most staking should be unnecessary after the first growing season.

**Fertilizer:** *Do not use fertilizer, potting soil, or chemicals on your new plantings.* We recommend root stimulators like BioTone or mycorrhizae. Before using any kind of fertilizer or soil amendment, we recommend getting a soil test.