

How to properly install a balled and burlapped (B&B) tree





**Remove all the
twine/rope**



**Twine may
girdle/strangle the
tree if not completely
removed**

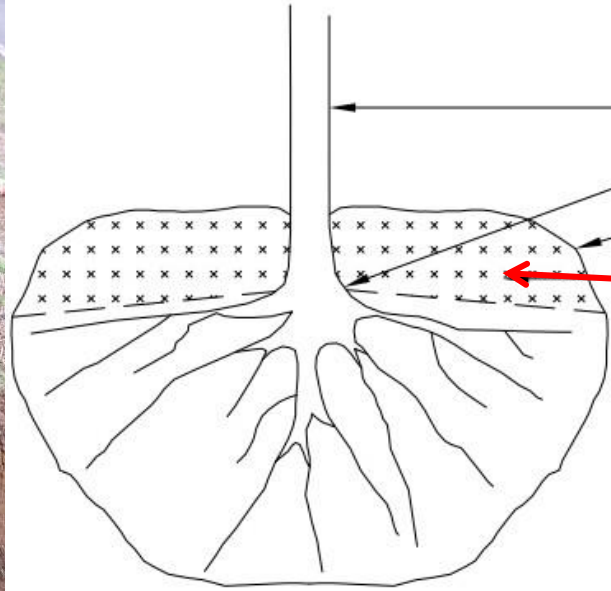


Remove the burlap and look for the root flare

No
root flare
is visible.
Looks like a
telephone
pole.



It may be necessary to remove excess soil to expose root flare



BALLED & BURLAPPED TREE

TREE ROOT FLARE

BURLAPPED ROOT BALL

REMOVE ADDITIONAL SOIL FROM THE TOP OF THE ROOT BALL AT THE PLANTING SITE TO REVEAL THE TREE ROOT FLARE



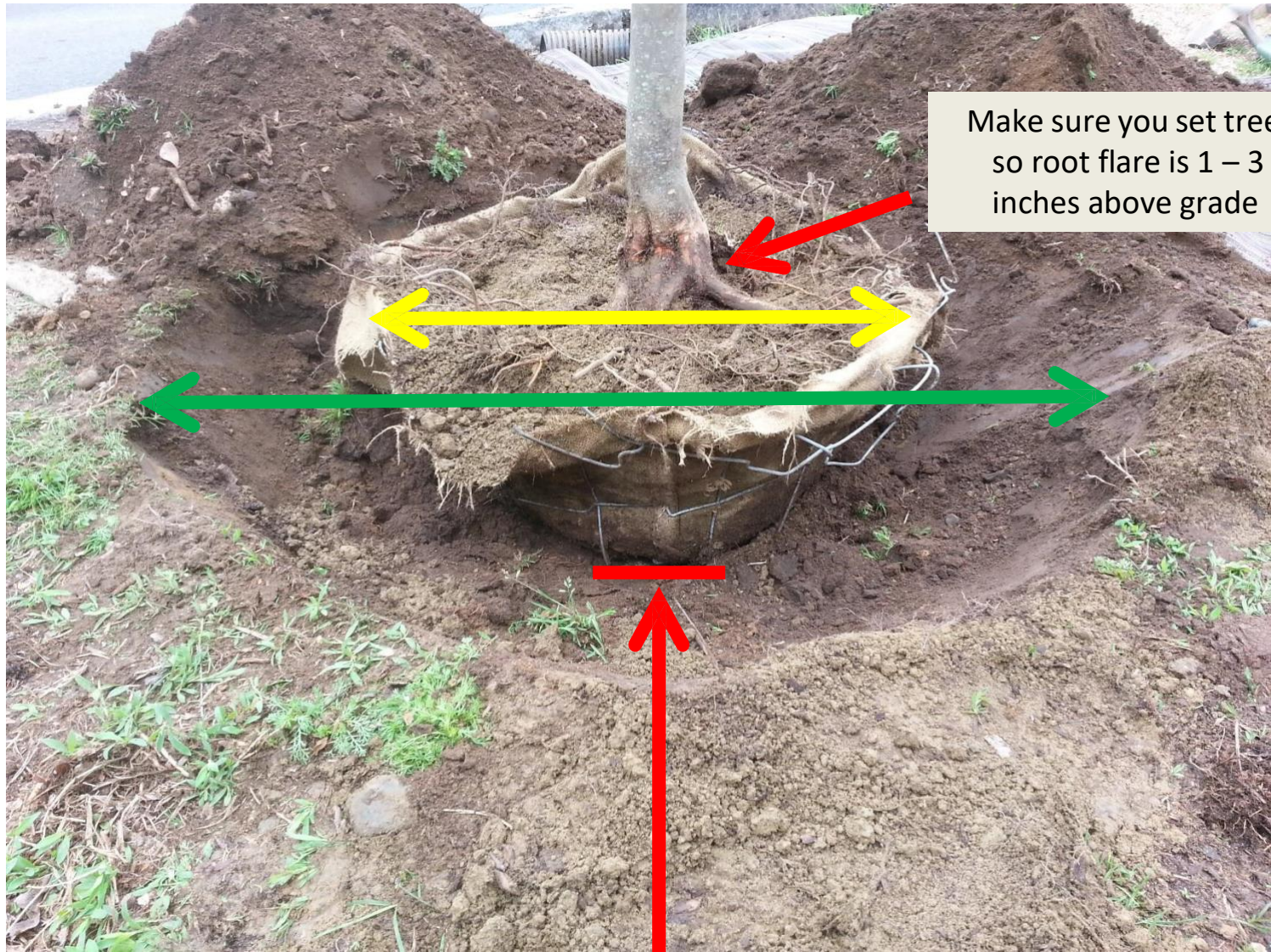
Root ball size has been reduced by 1/4 to 1/3 by exposing the root flare, reducing the amount of labor necessary for digging

Note: TREE TO BE PLANTED WITH EXPOSED ROOT FLARE 1" – 3" ABOVE FINISHED GRADE AT CURB

Before planting, prune any girdling or upward growing roots



Dig the hole twice as wide as the root ball

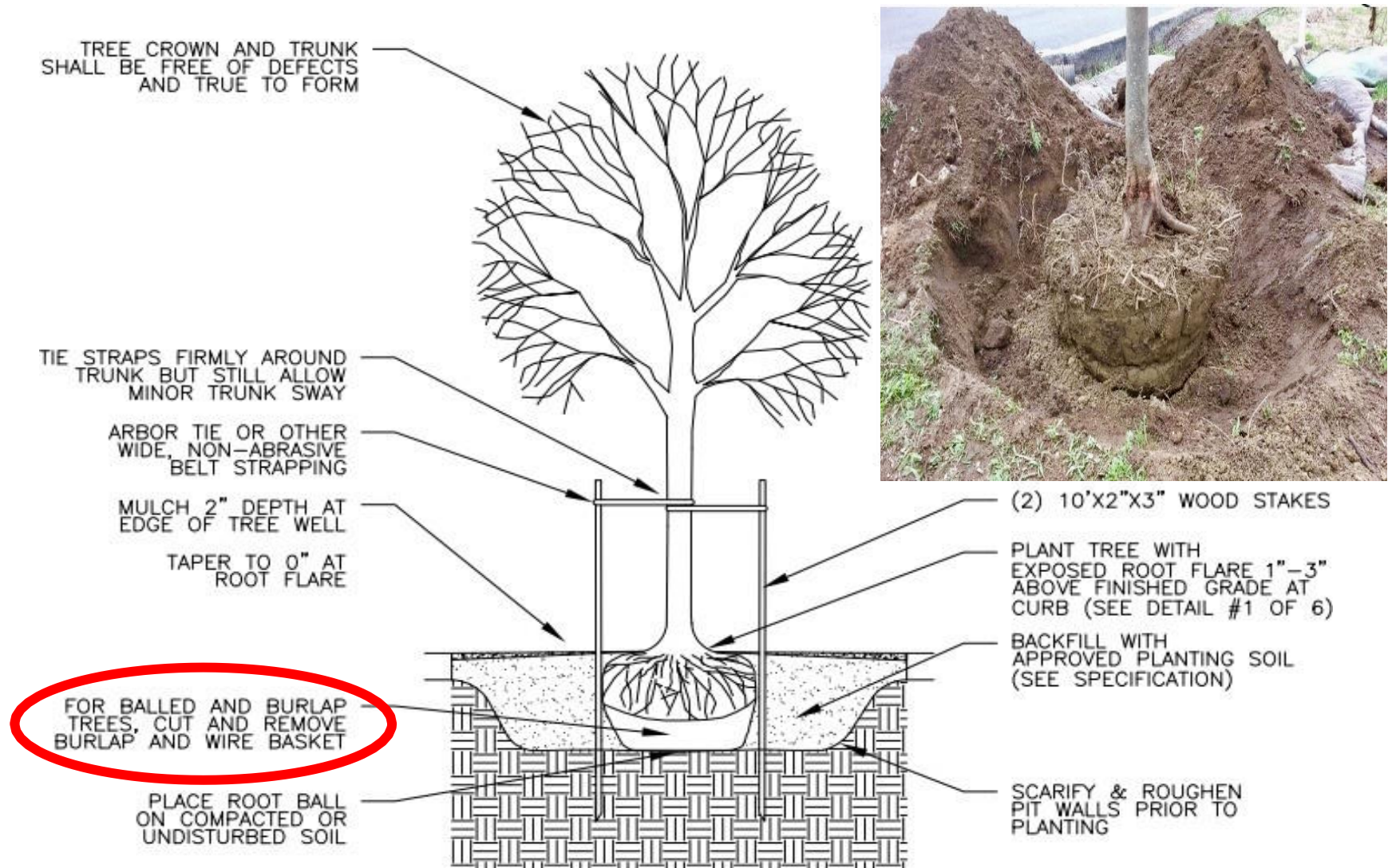


Make sure you set tree so root flare is 1 – 3 inches above grade

Place the root ball on *undisturbed* or compacted soil

Remove at least the top 2/3 of the burlap and wire basket.

Insert two stakes to hold tree steady



Fill the hole halfway up with soil and add water. This step will help remove air pockets, and help secure the root ball in the ground

Do NOT step in planting hole to compact soil around root ball/roots



“Mudding In”



**Fill the rest of the hole with soil and soak again with water.
Add mulch but do not bury the root flare**



Mulch helps retain soil moisture, reduces competition with weeds and moderates soil temperatures and protects against freezing

It is bad practice to pile mulch up against the trunk of trees.

It may cause trunk or root rot and diverts energy to growing girdling roots

Proper Root Flare Placement



Perfect: Flare High Above Finished Grade



Incorrect: Flare Below Finished Grade

The Results

Thriving Crown



Failing Crown



Post Planting Care

Place gator bags on the two tree stakes to encourage root growth outwards.

Fill gator bags 1-2 times per week with roughly 20 gallons of water per watering during the growing season for two years

Remember:

Root flare high, tree doesn't die.

Root flare low, tree doesn't grow.

*Inspiration from: Cambridge City Arborists,
David Lefcourt and Abigail Bentley*

