

Russell's Tree & Shrub Warranty & Planting Guide

Our Warranty

Russell's takes pride in selling healthy trees and shrubs that are true to name. If you have followed our planting and watering guidelines and a plant dies within one year of purchase or is mislabeled, we will provide a one-time store credit equal to the purchase price. It is not necessary to return dead material, a picture will suffice. Sales receipts are required for all warranty claims.

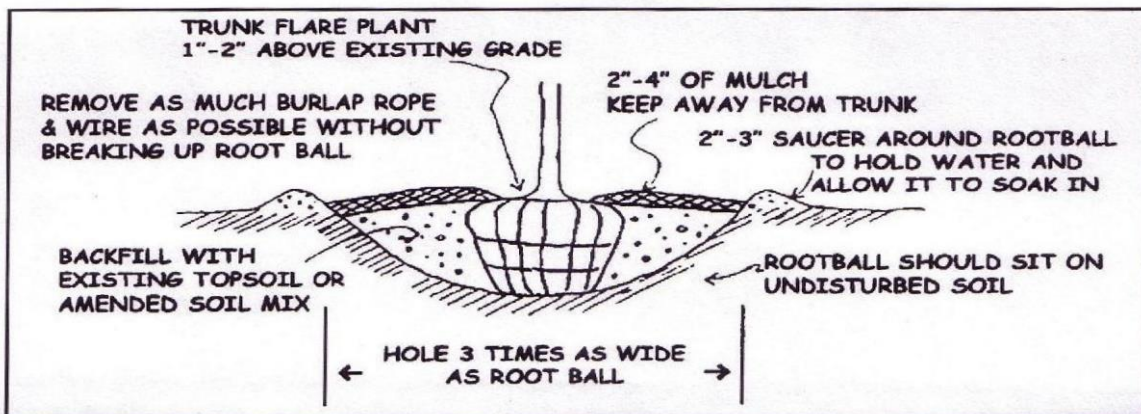
Warranty exclusions include:

- Trees and shrubs planted in containers and/or overwintered in containers.
- Roses, herbaceous perennials, vines, houseplants, vegetables, annuals, and live Christmas trees.
- Plants damaged by conditions such as improper (refer to the diagram on page 1) or delayed planting, animal damage, or extreme weather.
- **Plants purchased at clearance or final sale prices.**

Please call 508-358-2283 (x330) at the **first sign** of any trouble with your plant. Our nursery staff will be happy to help you with your concerns. Do not dig up the plant in question before being instructed to do so.

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.

PLANTING: Dig a hole 2 times wider than the root ball or pot size. Sides should slope to the center. Container grown plants should be planted to the depth of the soil in the pot. To encourage the roots to grow out into the newly prepared soil, you must loosen and/or cut the encircling roots. Make sure the root ball is planted at ground level. Do not dig or loosen the soil deeper than is necessary, the plant should have a firm foundation, so it does not settle.



FILLING: Experts today recommend backfilling with the soil dug from the planting hole. However, if the soil is sandy, heavy clay or poor quality then the addition of soil amendments such as compost, good topsoil or commercially available soil mixes should help the plant to grow into the new location. Back fill around the root ball with the soil mixture and lightly tamp to eliminate air pockets.

Water the plant well, filling the planting hole to the rim and letting it drain. This process will also help settle the soil and you will likely need to add soil to bring it back to level. We recommend creating a well (see sketch) with a 2-3" dam or lip at the edge of the planting area. This retains water and allows for economical and efficient watering. On a sloped location this is especially necessary to prevent runoff, thus ensuring the new plants retain water.

WATERING: After planting your shrub or tree, the aim of your watering practices should be to keep the soil evenly moist. Sprinkler systems and rainfall should not be expected to meet this need. Hand watering, drip irrigation, or soaker hoses are best for the plants. It is better to water slowly and deeply rather than to apply frequent shallow waterings.

One should water when soil begins to lightly dry out. Check several inches down to see how moist the soil is (not the mulch) before watering. Do not water on a schedule, but according to the plant's needs. Weather, temperature, location, soil conditions, amount of sun and variety of plant will be the controlling factors. For example, a plant in a sunny location will generally need more water than one in a cool, shady spot.

A modest (2-4") layer of mulch on top of the disturbed soil cuts down on the evaporation so it should reduce watering frequency. Be careful to keep mulches from touching or covering the crown or trunk of the plant as this could cause disease. Remember to check to make sure the water is getting into the soil and the mulch is not acting as a barrier.

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. Make sure the stake is in solid ground and not just in the root ball. Larger specimens will likely need support from 2 or 3 directions. Check with our experts for guidelines. There are kits available for staking. It is important to make sure any guying material does not injure the bark or re-strict future growth of the plant. Most staking should be unnecessary after the plant is well established.

