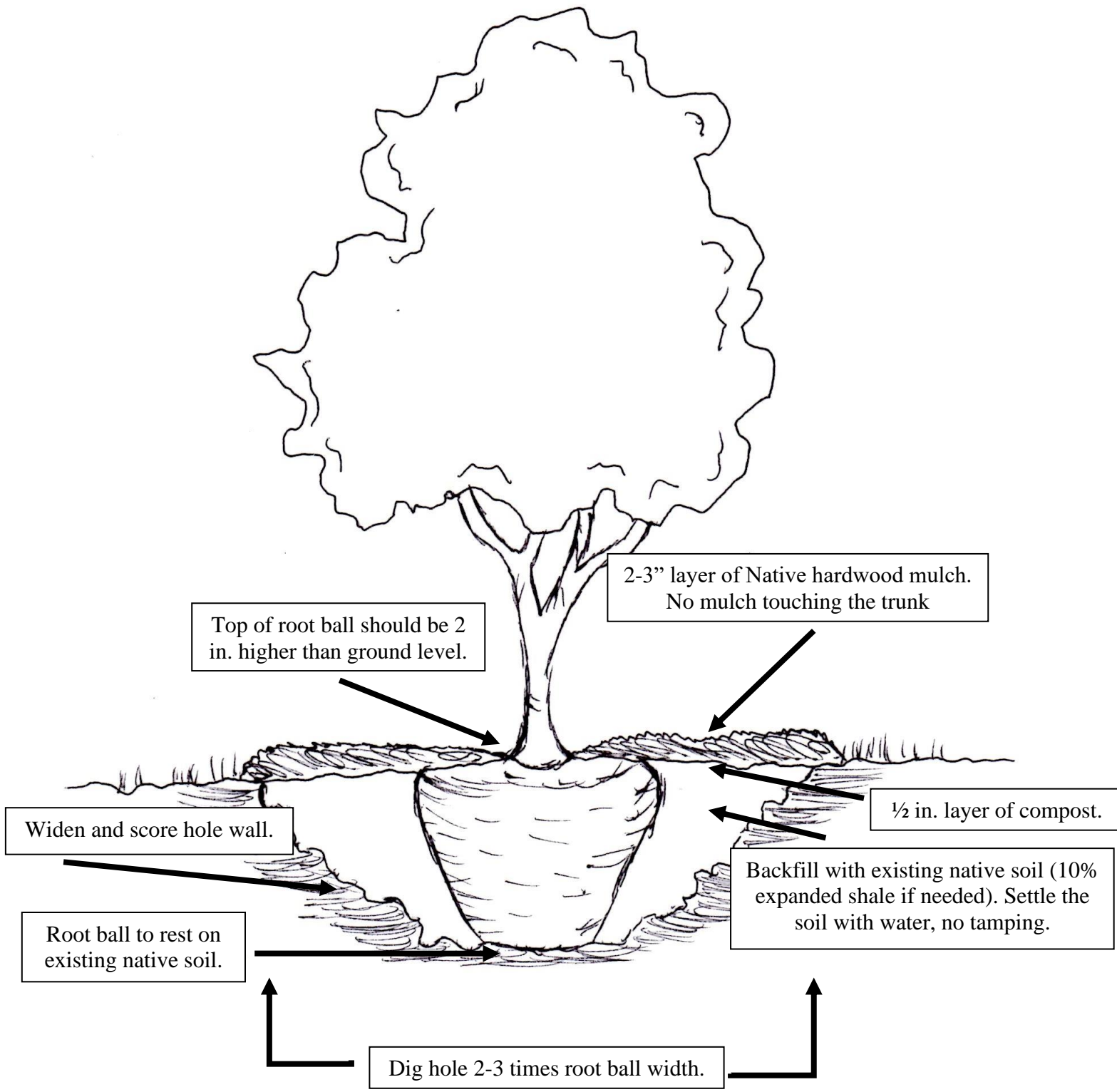


# BUCHANAN'S NATIVE PLANTS

## Planting a Tree or Shrub

- 1. *Appropriate Conditions:*** Make sure the planting site is appropriate for the species of tree or shrub being planted. Remember to consider the following:
  - a. Amount of Sunlight
  - b. Soil conditions
  - c. Drainage
  - d. Plant growth at maturity
  - e. Surrounding/Obstructions
- 2. *Planting Prep:*** To begin the planting process, follow these instructions for the highest chance of success.
  - a. Plant during the cooler part of the day.
  - b. Dig a hole at least 2-3 times the width of the root ball, and the same depth as the root ball. (See chart on reverse side)
  - c. Cut or unwind circling roots and spread roots out evenly before backfilling the hole.
- 3. *Planting:*** Always backfill the planting hole with the native soil (soil that came out of the hole). Keep these tips in mind when backfilling.
  - a. Break up large clumps with a shovel, heavy clay soils can be amended with 10% **expanded shale**.
  - b. Water as needed to settle the dirt. DO NOT compress the backfill soil as this can inhibit growth.
  - c. Make sure the root flare is not covered with soil. (See chart on reverse side)
  - d. Add ½ inch or more of **compost** to the top of the soil before applying mulch.
- 4. *Post Planting:*** Light fertilization with an organic product like **MicroLife** is sufficient during the first year. It is important that energy is focused on developing a strong root structure, not on accelerated top growth during this critical period. That's why we recommend:
  - a. **Buchdoctor Kangaroots:** a root drench formulation designed to enhance the proliferations and root mass development. Kangaroots also contains concentrated amounts of microbes, as well as macro and micronutrients that plants thrive on.
  - b. **Native hardwood mulch:** Add a 2-3" layer around the base of the tree. DO NOT place the mulch directly against the base of the trunk, as that can promote insect infestation and disease.
- 5. *Watering:*** Watering a new tree on a regular basis is critical! The frequency of watering will depend on weather and soil conditions. Pay attention during times of drought. Do not rely only on sprinkler systems, use a **soaker hose** or **bubbler attachment** to water slowly and deeply to ensure the water reaches the whole root ball and surrounding soil
- 6. *Pruning:*** Studies have shown that unpruned trees establish faster and have a stronger root system than trees pruned at the time of planting. If pruning a young tree, prune only torn or broken branches, co-dominant leaders and narrow crotch angles. Do not prune terminal leaders or branch tips. **Never prune the lower branches of a young tree.**
- 7. *Staking:*** Do not stake a tree unless it is top-heavy, very thin and leggy or is in a windy location. Do not keep a tree staked for more than a year. (Staking can weaken a tree.)



\*Tree Diagram used from Howard Garret, 'The Dirt Doctor'.