



## Planting New Shrubs and Trees

The old method of planting shrubs and trees was to add organic matter such as peat and manure to the soil taken out of the hole. Research showed, however, that this produced plants with reduced root systems. We now know that trees and shrubs should be planted in native soils, no matter how "bad" you think it is. Then the soil is amended as nature does it, from the top down.

Look at all the big trees you see growing in wild areas on Cape Cod. They are all growing in very sandy soils and no one "improved" the area before the plants started to grow.

Dig a hole that's wider than the root ball, so that the soil is loosened and it's easier for the new plant's roots to grow. Scatter a handful of Bio-tone in and around the hole. Place plant in hole and look to be sure you'll see the root flare once the soil is put back around the plant. Fill with native soil.

Amend every year with compost and mulch from the top down, as Nature does it. Water well after you plant, and regularly the first year.

**1. Remove pot or burlap.  
Remove all strings and wire baskets**

**2. Dig a bowl-shaped hole only as deep as the root ball.**

**3. Place plant in the hole so that the root-flare shows and is just a bit higher than ground level.**

**4. Fill with native soil.**

**5. Top-dress with compost or mulch.**

**6. Do not add peat, or manure to the soil in the hole - the native soil will be amended from the top down as the compost or mulch decomposes.**

