

Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Institute of Agriculture  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

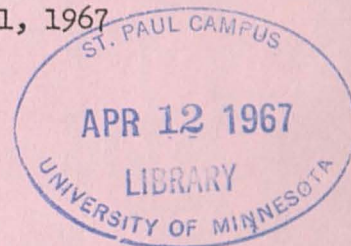
# Yard 'n' Garden



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C. GUSTAV HARD      ORRIN C. TURNQUIST  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ST. PAUL, MINN. 55101



## PLANTING WOODY LANDSCAPE MATERIALS

Careful planting of woody landscape materials is necessary in order to assure good growth and development of the shrubs or trees the first year. Careful planting includes good soil preparation as well as proper pruning of the materials after planting.

\* \* \* \*

Where heavy soils or extremely sandy soils exist, soil improvement is necessary. Heavy soils lack the quality of poor drainage and tend to hold excessive amounts of water during a prolonged rainy spell. At the same time, light sandy soils tend to be droughty when there is a lack of normal rainfall. In order to assure the development of the shrub, a good topsoil should be used to fill around the roots of the newly planted materials. This is true whether it is a balled and burlapped tree or shrub, a potted plant or a bare root plant.

\* \* \* \*

On heavy clay soils it is often beneficial to try to provide drainage in the base of the hole in order to avoid excessive water buildup. If it is possible, dig through the clay soil into a more porous subsoil.

\* \* \* \*

Many gardeners have a tendency to apply commercial fertilizer to the soil at planting time. It is preferable to use a high-quality topsoil with good fertility and to incorporate organic matter in order to provide a better medium for the plant. Once the tree or shrub begins to grow, add more fertility if necessary.

\* \* \* \*

When planting trees or shrubs in heavy soils, it is better to make the watering well above the level of existing soil in order to prevent excessive surface drainage into the watering hole during extended periods of rain. Root suffocation will result if the water does not drain out properly.

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