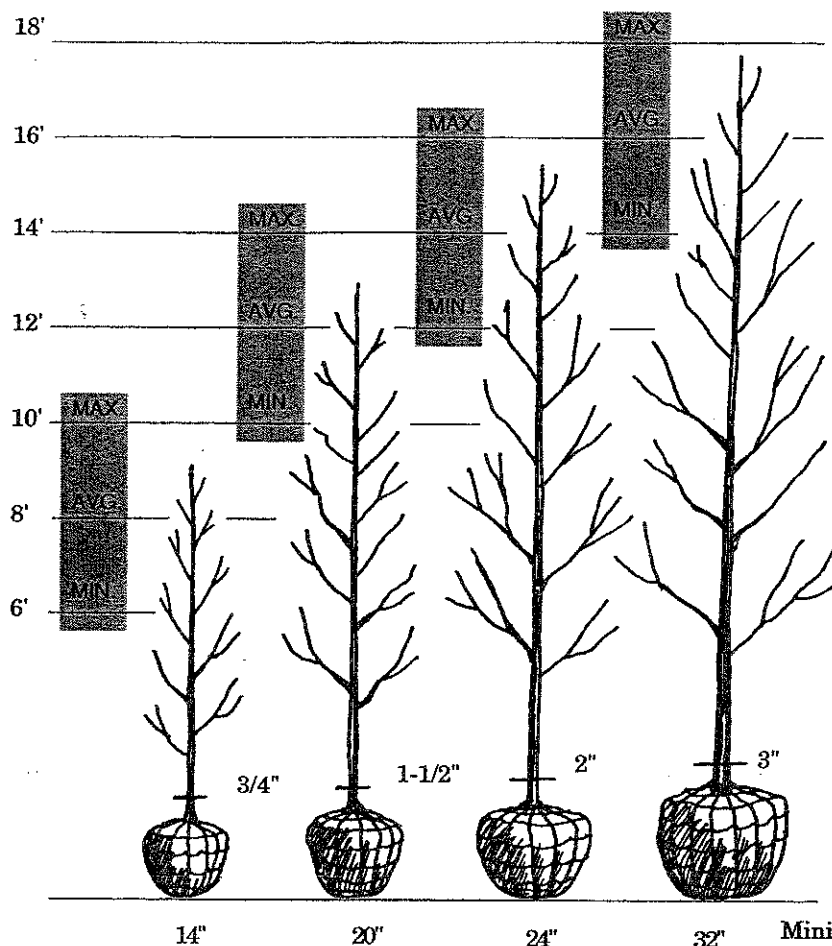


How to Check Proper Size and Root Ball Proportions



To reduce transplanting shock and assure that adequate feeding roots are moved with the tree, the American Nursery and Landscape Association has established standards for height-diameter relationships and root ball sizes. This chart illustrates these standards for most deciduous shade trees. A more complete range of sizes may be found in *American Standard for Nursery Stock* (See page 8).

What is Caliper?

Trunk diameter on young trees is referred to as its caliper size. For standardization, this measurement is taken 6" above the ground on trees with a diameter of 4" or smaller, and 12" above the ground on larger planting stock. The diameter of larger trees is measured approximately 4 1/2 feet above ground level and is expressed as diameter breast high (DBH).

14" 20" 24" 32" Minimum Ball Diameter or approximating by rule of thumb: 1 foot for each 1 inch of caliper.

PLANTING A B&B IN SANDY SOIL

To determine the size hole that must be dug to plant a B&B in sandy soil, first measure the width of the B&B. The hole should be three times the width of the B&B. A 30 inch ball requires a hole 90 inches wide. To determine the depth of the hole measure the height of the ball. The hole should be dug 2 to 3 inches deeper than the height of the ball. The removed sand should be discarded. Now line the hole with burlap. This burlap should be biodegradable. Then put a 2 to 3 inch layer of top soil on the burlap. Now place the B&B on the layer of top soil. Care must be taken that no portion of the B&B comes in contact with the sand. Sand located near the beach has a high salt content and this salt will kill trees. Making sure the tree is vertical, now start filling the hole with top soil. This topsoil should be premixed to achieve the following formula. Sixty percent top soil, 20 percent peat moss and 20 percent humus. When the hole is half filled with this topsoil mix, stop and then fill the hole with water. The reason for the watering at this point is to eliminate air pockets that may have formed during the filling of the hole. Now continue to fill the hole with top soil and water again. If possible form a basin with the top soil. The basin will hold water for longer periods.

Use a bolt cutter to cut away the two or three rows of wire. Try not to disturb the ball more than necessary but try to cut away as much of the wire as possible.

Follow up the planting with plenty of water every other day in the beginning.

Cut off any burlap that protrudes above the ground after filling the hole. The tree should be staked. Trees planted near the beach should have three stakes and they should be left in place about two years.

Studies at Rutgers University have determined that it is salt that is deposited on the tree leaves that kills trees planted near the ocean. The salt left on the leaves after a storm is transferred to the tree roots by osmosis. To protect trees planted near the beach wash the leaves off by spraying water on the leaves to prevent salt absorption after each storm.