Sapling Planting - Illustrated

1. **Prepare a large tub of soil amendments** as follows:

½ bag Mr. Natural Woodland Soil Mix

½ bag Mr. Natural Worm Castings

1/2 bag mushroom compost / humus

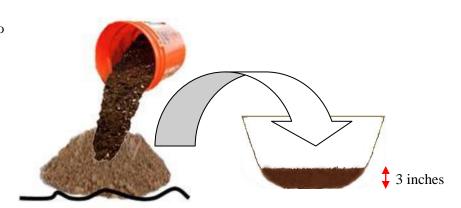
½ bag top soil



2. **Dig a hole** 3 times the width of the sapling's pot or root ball (i.e., you could place the pot or root ball in the hole 3 times in a triangle) but only 2" deeper than the dirt in the container. Pile the removed dirt next to the hole.



3. **Get half a bucket of soil amendment from the large tub and mix it thoroughly** with the native soil you removed from the hole in a ratio of 2/3 native soil to 1/3 soil amendment. Put 3 inches of this soil mix back into the hole.



4 **Remove the tree from the container** carefully and tickle the root hairs so they're facing outwards. If the roots are pot-bound, use a sharp tool to make several half-inch-deep scrapes all around the root mass to free them. Place the tree in the center of the hole, and be sure it's sitting a couple inches above grade.



5. Refill the hole halfway with your soil mix. Then sprinkle the contents of the baggie containing fertilizer, Ironite granules, and water retention crystals all around the roots of the tree.



6. **Fill the hole the rest of the way** with your soil mix so that it just covers the root ball. The tree should be sitting 2 inches above grade at this point.



7. **Firm the dirt with your foot** to eliminate air pockets. Then tree should be sitting exactly at grade, level with the surrounding ground. Don't create a watering saucer around the tree.



- 8. **Place the bamboo stake** close to the trunk on the back side of the tree and push it firmly into the soil until you reach original earth and it's stable.
- 9. **Use velcro tape** to secure the main stem to the bamboo stake LOOSELY at the half-way point and about 6 inches from the top. The stake and tape should be removed by the end of the first year.



10. **Apply 2-3 inches of shredded hardwood mulch** from the trunk out to the drip line, pulling the mulch back a couple of inches so it's not actually touching the trunk. This is to maintain stable soil moisture and temperature.



11. Immediately after planting, water thoroughly but slowly right at the base of the tree, using 1 gallon of initial watering mix. Two or three hours later, firm the dirt again with your foot to eliminate any remaining air pockets and water again with plain water, using 1 gallon of water per gallon of root ball.

