

# Plant Handling & Transportation

**Objective:** to explain and demonstrate the correct way to transport plants to the job site.

**Training Materials:** various sizes of plants, burlap, tarp, truck or trailer.

**Personal Protective Equipment:** work boots, gloves.

**Lesson:** *Plants should be protected during delivery to the job site so there is no damage to the branches, root ball or desiccation of leaves (dry out). Where ever possible plants should be transported in an enclosed truck. Large trees in the back of a truck or trailer, should be covered with a mesh tarpaulin to prevent damage and windburn.*

Plants should be placed and spaced securely so damage to the bark and branches is avoided. Avoid stacking plants on a truck or trailer.

When using bare root plants (in a dormant condition) care must be taken to keep the roots moist. The roots should be wrapped in moist peat moss, shingletoe or straw and protected at all times from frost, wind and sun.

**Handle with care:**

1. Bare root plants should be covered and protected from frost, freezing, sun, and wind.

2. Plants in pots should be handled by the container in order to reduce breakage of branches or leaves. Container plants shall not be held by the tops, stems or trunks.

3. Ball & burlap trees and shrubs should be handled with caution to maintain the firmness of the root balls. Protect against damage to trunk, stems and branches.

4. Wire basket trees should not be lifted by the trunk. Lift by attachments to the basket at three to four points or by supporting the tree below the root ball.

5. When unloading large wire-basket trees, the bark should be protected against chafing from chains, cables, equipment or other trees by a wrapping with cardboard or burlap.

6. If the branches of evergreens and larger plants have been tied up, do not remove the twine until after planting.

- *Plants should be placed and spaced securely so damage to the bark and branches is avoided. Avoid stacking plants on a truck or trailer.*

- *All plants should be unloaded immediately on arrival, checked for damage and watered if necessary. If the plants are not going to be installed that day, they should be stored in an upright position out of direct sunlight.*

