TRANSPLANTING SHRUBS AND TREES
By Dean Donaldson, Farm Advisor

After selecting a suitable location for your plant, here are key points to review before you set the plant into the ground.

GROUND PREPARATION

- Remove weeds and competing roots.
- Digging the soil introduces air, mixes layers and loosens for root growth.
- Dig at least one shovel deep, more for trees – 3x wide.
- Fertilizers and Minerals are normally added three weeks prior to planting, based on soil tests, and only add enough to prevent deficiencies.
- If amending soil with organic matter, do it with the fertilizer 3 weeks prior.
- Do not walk on freshly dug soil.
- Make planting hole on top of freshly dug soil – only to depth needed.

PUTTING THE PLANT IN THE GROUND

- Select plants and water containers well 24 hours prior to planting.
- Check the roots for size and healthy growth.
- Don’t let roots ‘see the sun’ – protect them from drying out.
- Most dormant plant roots may be gently straightened as you plant.
- Don’t disturb growing (white) roots.
- Set in new hole to same depth (or slightly higher) as in container.
- Backfill with fine soil (amendments are not beneficial).
- Gently settle soil around roots with water drench.
- Add mulch to soil surface after planting (3 inches deep is good).

CARE – FIRST SEASON AFTER PLANTING

- Mulch soil surface for weed control, keep mulch away from trunk.
- Water to root depth to encourage growth, dry-off in the fall.
- Fertilize only after plant is established (at least 6 months after planting).
- Reapply mulch in the spring and in the fall.

March 2011

The University of California prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities. (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at http://groups.ucanr.org/ANR_AA/files/54635.doc)

Direct inquiries regarding the University’s nondiscrimination policies to the Affirmative Action Director, University of California, ANR, 1111 Franklin St., 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 987-0096.