



LANDSCAPING LIFESTYLES



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Bulk Over Bags

Despite popular belief, not everything is cheaper at the big box stores. When it comes to landscape materials, you can buy it by the cubic feet in bags, or you can buy it from Buck's by the cubic yard and save a bunch of money. You could end up paying over three times as much if you buy it by the bag rather than bulk.

If you don't need a full yard, no problem, you can get your materials in as small a quantity as 1/8th of a yard, which is three 5 gallon buckets. Although there is some convenience to transporting bags, is it really worth what you could be saving when you buy it in bulk?

The following are a few prices that were taken from one of the local box stores and compared to the prices at Buck's. These prices are per cubic yard.

Item	Local Box Store	Buck's
Walk-On Bark	\$60.35	\$51.98
Red Dye Chips	\$67.09	\$48.98
Compost	\$77.89	\$35.98
California Gold	\$242.46	\$95.98
Beach Stone	\$269.46	\$73.98
White Dolomite	\$228.96	\$129.98
Sand	\$85.50	\$41.98
Lava Rock	\$177.12	\$59.98

Tree Planting 101

Spring is quickly coming upon us as the sun is beginning to peak through the clouds and fog and the temperature is becoming warmer. If you've got tree planting on the gardening agenda this year, then Spring is the best time to do it. The weather is just right as to not greatly effect the sensitive roots of a transplanted tree. Any tree pulled from the comfort of its home and placed in a foreign environment will always experience some sort of shock. It is important for the transport of a tree from one place to another to be met with the best conditions to ensure that what shock it does experience will not seriously damage or possibly kill the tree. Here are a few suggestions to follow the next time you consider



planting or transplanting a tree

planting, or transplanting, a tree.

Digging The Hole

The most common mistake in planting a tree is in digging the hole. It is very important not to make the hole too deep or too narrow. The top of the soil connected to the root ball should be at the same level as the ground it is being planted in. If the tree is planted too deep, the roots will not receive the oxygen needed and water will pool up around the base. The hole must also be about three times as wide as the root ball. This will give the roots plenty of room to grow through loose soil rather than being tightly confined by the hard packed soil surrounding it.

Amending The Soil

Give the roots plenty of food to take in as they begin the healing process and become reestablished in the new environment. A finely ground [forest humus](#) helps to enrich the soil with the proper nutrients as well as provide the soil with the ability to retain moisture. This will greatly reduce the amount of shock the tree will experience. For more information about amendments, [check out our website](#).

Planting The Tree

Place the tree in the center of the hole standing straight up (not leaning) with the best side facing the area it will be viewed from the most. Place the amended soil back in the hole and begin tamping it in around the roots. Be sure to direct the roots out away from the tree in the way they would normally extend themselves in search of food. If the tree has been growing in a pot the roots may be "pot bound". It may be necessary to loosen up the roots and spread them out using a hand trowel (shovel).

Watering

It's important to give the tree plenty of water once it is planted. The amount of water required afterwards depends on the season. If it is spring or fall, the tree should receive water about twice a week with a nice good soaking so that it reaches low into the soil. This will encourage deeper growing roots. In the summer watering should be increased to almost every day and should just about stop all together in the winter. In the first couple of months it is important not to over water as the tree could become oxygen deprived.

Did you know

- Over the course of its' life, a single tree can absorb one ton of carbon dioxide.
- A single tree produces approximately 260 pounds of oxygen per year. That means two mature trees can supply enough oxygen annually to support a family of four!
- An average-size tree provides an estimated \$7 savings in annual environmental benefits, including energy conservation and reduced pollution? Sweet! (<http://www.savatree.com>)

For more information visit your local nursery or contact the [Bakersfield Green Thumb Garden Club](#).



20% OFF ALL POND KITS!

Take advantage of a special that happens only once a year. During the 2010 Home and Garden Show February 19-21 at the Kern County Fairgrounds, all of our pond kits will be on sale for 20% off. Save up to \$200 on a kit that has everything you need to build a beautiful water feature- pump, filters, tubing, liner, and underlayment. Whether you do it yourself or want us to install it for you, you can't pass up this opportunity. Come check out booth #104 in the main

courtyard and pick up a free sample of our new line of premium koi food- "Buck's Bait". Your fish will love it!

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