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Abiotic injury - improper planting depth

When planting, look for the root flare, and plant the ball with the root flare level with the ground. The kousa dogwood below declined over a period of several years before it died.



Below: The root flare was buried 5" down and topped with a layer of mulch. Be careful when uncovering roots of plants that have been buried for several years. Many roots have developed near the surface. These roots can be killed when uncovered. Adjusting



plant-ing depth is best done in spring after the weather settles to allow time for new root growth to develop and to allow the plant to adjust before the ground freezes.

Improper planting depth - *continued*

Symptoms associated with planting too deep include wilting, stunted growth, chlorosis, dieback, early fall color, scorch, and the development of adventitious roots. Planting too deep restricts the amount of water and oxygen to the fine root systems, lowering the trees vitality. Trees planted too deep are also more subject to canker development and wind throw.



Above: Planting too shallow -- this yew was planted with part of the root ball sticking out of the ground, and the burlap and twine left on. Burlap should be removed if possible or at least cut off the top to allow water penetration into the root ball. Twine should be removed. The root ball should be just covered with soil.