



5739 N. Clark St. ♦ Chicago, IL 60660  
773-878-5915 ♦ www.gethsemanegardens.com

## Tree Terminology

### Balled and burlapped

Typically, “b and b” trees are grown in the ground versus a container. Once trees are removed from the ground, their root ball is wrapped in burlap and a wire cage then prepared for sale. Consumers usually have a wider range of material when choosing balled and burlapped trees. They tend to be larger and can be planted at any time.

### Bare root

Roots that are bare from soil. Bare root material has a very limited planting time and must be handled (harvested, shipped, planted) during dormancy. Bare roots are a perishable commodity – get them in the ground as soon as possible.

### Broadleaf evergreen

Usually referred to as a shrub such as Rhododendron, Azalea, and Ilex that are known to be deciduous that can sometimes keep their leaves thru winter.

### Caliper

A tree’s diameter is known as its caliper and is measured at either six or twelve inches from the ground, depending on the size of the tree. Calipers give the industry a standard method of measuring nursery stock. They help us determine the size and weight of the root ball.

### Conifers

Cone-bearing or plants that contain a naked seed. Not all conifers are evergreen, but most are. All conifers are woody plants and the great majority are trees with just a few being shrubs.

### Container stock

As the name implies, some trees are grown in containers. From an industry standpoint, container trees offer an advantage because soil mixes are lighter than native soils. This

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Tree & Shrub Phone: 773-769-8217 ♦ treesandshrubsgethsemane@yahoo.com

makes them easier to ship. Home gardeners should know that container trees demand more water initially than trees grown in native soil. Container stock has been babied, so it takes extra care to establish.

### Deciduous

Trees that drop their leaves in fall and leaf out again in spring. Many flowering and fruiting trees are deciduous.

### Dormancy

Dormancy is that period of winter rest where very little plant activity takes place. Dormancy is thus a good time to purchase, transplant or prune trees.

### *Mycorrhiza*

Fungus that grows on the root system of a plant and helps the plant take in more moisture and nutrients needed to maintain good health. *Mycorrhiza* naturally occurs in healthy soil. Soil that is sterile, clay, and even sandy can cause weak conditions for the fungus to exist making it hard for plants to grow and even fight off disease. *Mycorrhiza* can be found packaged on its own or in a quality fertilizer.

### Root flare

This is the transition zone between the main stem (trunk of tree) and the root system. The root flare should always be exposed. If a tree looks like a telephone pole coming up out of the ground, it was planted incorrectly.

### Variegated

Plants that have more than one color in the leaf, stem, and flower. Variegated plants have been long-valued by gardeners, as the unusually lighter-colored variegation can help break up large blocks of solid green foliage creating beautiful gardens.