

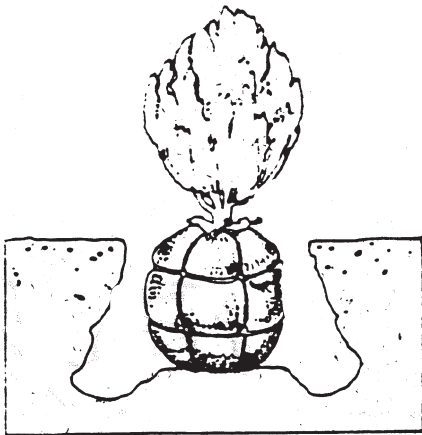
# Planting Dogwoods

**D**ogwoods need a gentle hand and some special attention in the beginning to assure yourself of the outstanding beauty they will provide for many years to come.

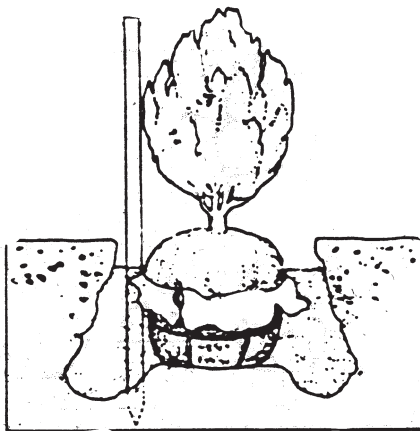
- Your dogwood tree comes with the root ball in burlap. Take care not to crack or disrupt the root ball (by dropping the pot, for instance).
- The wood of the dogwood is fairly delicate and easily broken. Do not grasp the tree by its trunk or attempt to bend the branches too much.
- The same as with any tree, do not remove the burlap at planting time. Rather, clip any twine that goes around the root ball so that it doesn't bind the ball, lower it into the planting hole, loosen the burlap from around the trunk and spread it back several inches, then finish planting the tree.
- Because of their delicate nature it is wise to protect the trunk for the first few years from cat claws, weed whackers, hoses, etc.
- Dogwoods have shallow roots. Flowers beds around their feet are okay only if you plant something permanent. A perennial ground cover is great—but not annuals which would require digging up the soil each year.
- Also, because of their surface rooting, dogwoods need regular watering, especially in hot dry summer months. In the wild, the dogwood tree is an understory tree—enjoying the shade and moist humus soil found under the big trees on the forest floor.



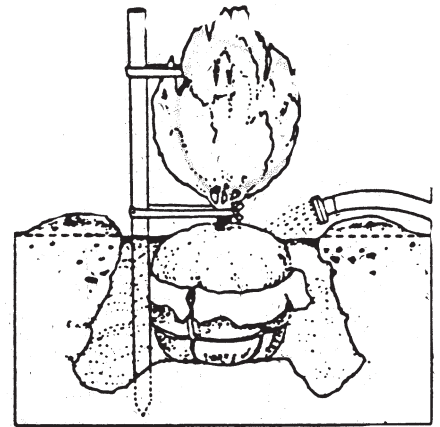
## BALL & BURLAP PLANTING



**1** Set ball and burlap plant into planting hole, placing root ball on firm plateau of undug soil; top of root ball then should be about 2 inches above surrounding soil.



**2** Untie burlap and spread it out to uncover about half of root ball. Drive in stake alongside root ball before hole is filled.



**3** After firming in backfill soil, create watering moat as described for container planting. Gently water in plant, then loosely tie plant to stake.