

## SHOVELLING 101

**Shovel types** There are many different types of shovels that may be used in planting trees. I.e. Different handles straight and D shaped; blades with edges and widths. Each has a different use such as cutting sod, digging a planting bowl in the dirt, scooping mulch.

**How to carry safely** – Always hold vertically, handle up, by your side when walking.

If you carry the shovel on your shoulder, when you turn you may hit or slash a person.

**How to put down safely:** Always place blade face down! If not, a person stepping on it may be hit in the face. Shovels may be stood upright shoved into soil and stands out of the way.

**Where to dig to plant a tree:** The spots or the pots will be placed exactly where you will dig. You will dig a “bowl”, NOT a hole for your tree. Each bowl you dig to plant your tree must be 3 pots wide and 1 pot deep. Check that the root collar will be at grass level/ top of the bowl.

### How to dig using a shovel

Where to place hands: one hand towards the blade and the other at, or near the handle.

Where to place foot: if right-handed, put right foot on right side of the shovel blade to avoid slashing your foot or leg and losing your balance.

Bend your back: after placing the edge on the spot to dig and placing your foot on the blade, bend forward to use your back to push the shovel deeper into the dirt.

NOTE: Add each shovelful of soil to make one soil pile beside the “bowl” you are digging for the tree. This soil may be mixed with other richer soil, if you are removing clay type soil to make it easier for roots to spread and grow.

### Shovel Care and Maintenance

After each use: - Wash soil off the shovel and stand to dry before storing, blade pointing down.

At the end of each planting season: – apply some oil of any kind – even cooking oil –to all the metal parts of the shovel.

