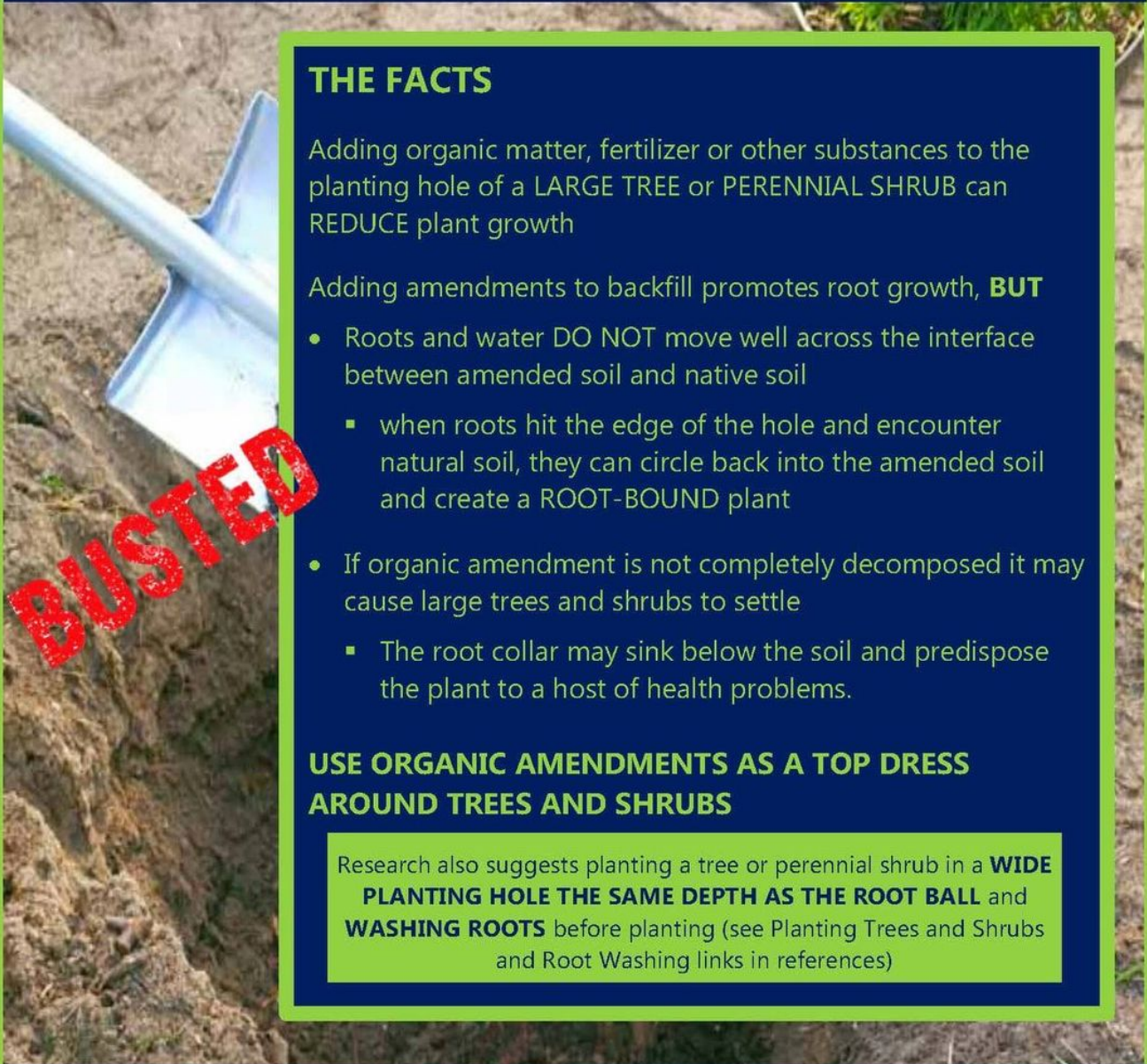


MYTH

THE BEST WAY TO PLANT TREES AND SHRUBS IS TO ADD SOIL AMENDMENTS TO NEWLY-DUG HOLE



THE FACTS

Adding organic matter, fertilizer or other substances to the planting hole of a **LARGE TREE** or **PERENNIAL SHRUB** can **REDUCE** plant growth

Adding amendments to backfill promotes root growth, **BUT**

- Roots and water **DO NOT** move well across the interface between amended soil and native soil
 - when roots hit the edge of the hole and encounter natural soil, they can circle back into the amended soil and create a **ROOT-BOUND** plant
- If organic amendment is not completely decomposed it may cause large trees and shrubs to settle
 - The root collar may sink below the soil and predispose the plant to a host of health problems.

USE ORGANIC AMENDMENTS AS A TOP DRESS AROUND TREES AND SHRUBS

Research also suggests planting a tree or perennial shrub in a **WIDE PLANTING HOLE THE SAME DEPTH AS THE ROOT BALL** and **WASHING ROOTS** before planting (see Planting Trees and Shrubs and Root Washing links in references)

REFERENCES

Oregon State University Extension

https://www.oregonlive.com/hg/2017/02/gardening_myths_debunked_by_or.html

Washington State University Extension

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/soil-amendments.pdf>

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2076/2015/05/C100-Planting-Trees-Shrubs-15.pdf>

Root Washing

<https://www.finegardening.com/article/root-washing-why-and-how-to-wash-roots>