

TREE PLANTING TIPS

PLANTING & FERTILIZING

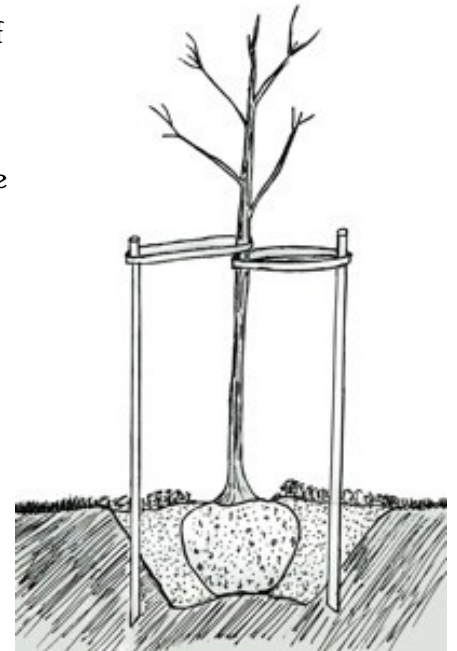
Dig a hole at least twice the width of the root-ball and the same depth. Thoroughly break up the soil that was removed from the ground and score the sides of the hole if your soil has a heavy clay component. Drainage issues can be helped by mixing pumice thoroughly into planting soil - mixing compost with existing soil was advised for years, but scientific research supports ending this practice.

Add organic fertilizer to planting soil and mix - always follow application rates on the fertilizer box, as the amount needed varies depending on the fertilizer you choose.

Carefully remove the tree from the container and loosen roots. If there are large, circling roots open them up - roots should be spreading out, away from the trunk.

Lower tree into hole. Make sure the base of the trunk is at ground level or slightly higher. If there is a graft (swollen point where trunk is attached to roots) it should remain above ground. A buried graft may rot, killing the tree. Just ask us if you are not sure whether your tree is grafted.

Gently but firmly backfill soil mixture into hole. If soil is dry, fill hole halfway and then water tree. After it drains, backfill with remaining soil and water slowly and thoroughly. Be sure not to pile soil around the base of the trunk.



MULCH! MULCH! MULCH!

Mulching is very important! Mulch is a layer of organic matter that sits on the surface of the soil. It keeps soil wetter and cooler in summer, drier and warmer in winter, and it helps to keep weeds at bay.

Cover the root zone with a 1-2" layer of mulch after planting. Use mulch to make a reservoir to keep water from running off by mounding a ring of mulch in a circle about 12-18" away from the trunk.

STAKING

Drive stakes down 14" deep on either side of the tree - be sure not to damage the root ball. Attach both stakes to the tree with green stretchy tape approximately 4 feet up the stake. The height can vary slightly depending on tree size. Wrap tape around trunk 360°, and attach to the stake.

Be sure to allow enough slack for the tree to sway slightly in the wind - this will help it to build a strong root system, while protecting it from falling. Check the tightness of the tape periodically as the tree grows, replace it if it becomes too tight. Remove tape and stakes after 1 year.

WATER WISELY

During the first summer (or dry season) your tree will need to be watered weekly. To water effectively turn your hose on low, and let water slowly seep into the soil. Less frequent, deep watering is the goal. Let the hose run gently for 30-45 minutes. This will help the tree develop a strong, deep root system.

Soaker hoses and drip systems are also good options for delivering water to a tree at a slow pace, so that it soaks deeply into the soil. Tree bags are fine for newly planted trees, but remember to remove them while they are not in use. Leaving tree bags on the trunk 24/7 can cause rotting.

In the following years, the tree will need less frequent watering or maybe none at all, depending on the tree's genetics, light, soil and weather. Taper deep watering off to every other week or once a month.

Even old established trees like a deep drink of water before heat waves!

If you have any questions feel free to stop by our Information Desk or give us a call.