

How To Plant a Tree



- Planting trees properly is important to ensure their long-term survival and health.
- Use the following to plant a tree.

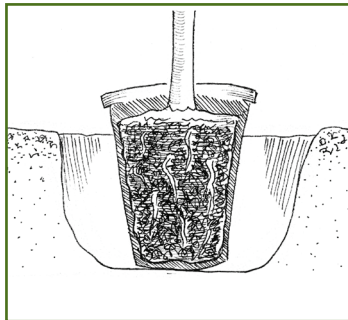
Let's get started

1. Clear the area.

- If planting in dirt, clear the area of weeds.
- If planting in a grass area, remove the sod in sections.

2. Dig a hole.

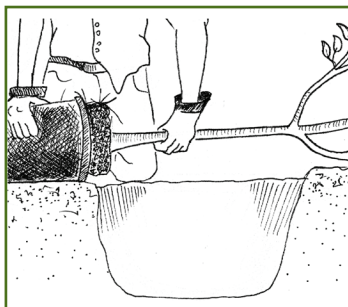
- Measure the height of the root ball and dig a hole as deep as the height of the root ball, and two to three times the width.



3. Remove the container from the tree and place it in the hole.

- Set the container next to the hole, lay the tree on its side next to the hole and hit the sides of the container to loosen the root ball from the sides of the container.
- While on its side, pull the container off.

- Pull the container off the tree, do not pull the tree out of the container.



- Don't leave the root ball exposed to sun and air too long, or the roots will dry out.

You'll need the following:

- Tree(s)
- 2 Ties
- Shovel
- Mulch
- Hose
- Gloves
- Water bucket
- Stake Pounder
- Water
- Hammer
- 2 Stakes

How-to Video

Watch the following video to see how to plant a tree properly.

How To Plant A Tree: <http://www.treepeople.org/how-plant-tree>

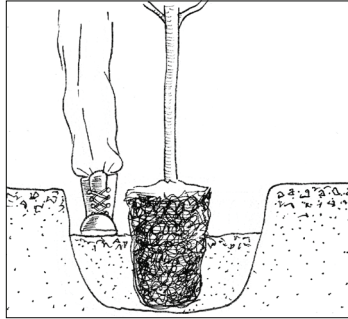
- Place the tree into the hole.
 - Turn the tree so that it is oriented and centered.
 - Consider which way branches will grow, and if this will interfere with buildings or streets.
 - If the tree is standing crooked in the hole, tilt the root ball and add soil underneath so the tree will level out.
- The top of the root ball should be level or 1" above ground.

4. Massage the root ball.

- Massage the root ball on all sides, including the bottom, so roots are loose and ready to grow out horizontally.
 - Prune any circling roots back to the point at which they turn. Or if they are flexible, pull them straight and pack soil around them.

5. Backfill around the root ball.

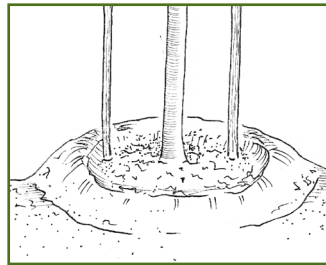
- Tamp the soil as you backfill.
 - Using a heel or the handle end of a shovel, press down firmly to collapse any air pockets.



- When backfilling is complete, the trunk flare should be at the grade of the soil or 1" above.

6. Build a watering berm (a low ring of dirt).

- Build the berm about 6 inches high, outside the root ball perimeter.

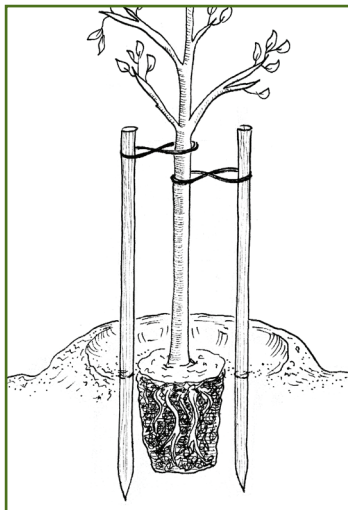


7. Remove nursery stake.

- The nursery stake is the stake tied against the trunk in the nursery container.
- Remove the nursery stake and fill the resulting hole with soil.

8. Install wooden stakes.

- Place the stakes in the ground on either side of the tree outside of the root ball.
- If the tree is leaning, position the stakes to tie the tree so that it will stand straight.



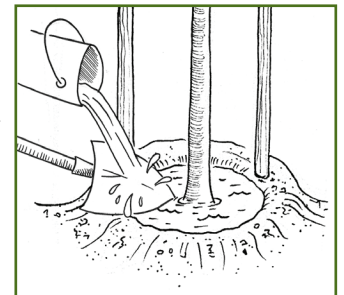
- Before installing the stakes, gently pull the tree out of the way to avoid damaging it.
- Use a stake pounder to secure the stakes.

9. Place the rubber ties.

- The tree should be able to move 2-3 inches after the ties are placed.
- Place the rubber ties in a figure 8 in the location that best supports the tree.
 - If the tree is leaning in one direction or is top heavy, the tie position will need to be adjusted to properly support the tree.
- Secure the ties to the stake with a nail.
 - Drive the nail through the loop where the tie is pulled through so that it secures both ends of the tie to the stake.

10. Water the tree.

- Slowly water the tree with a hose or bucket.
 - Pour the water onto the back of a shovel or hand.
- Give the tree 15-20 gallons of water.
- Patch up any spots where water is escaping.



11. Mulch.

- Cover the entire planting area with mulch to a depth of 4 inches.
 - Push the mulch 5 - 6 inches away from the base of the trunk.