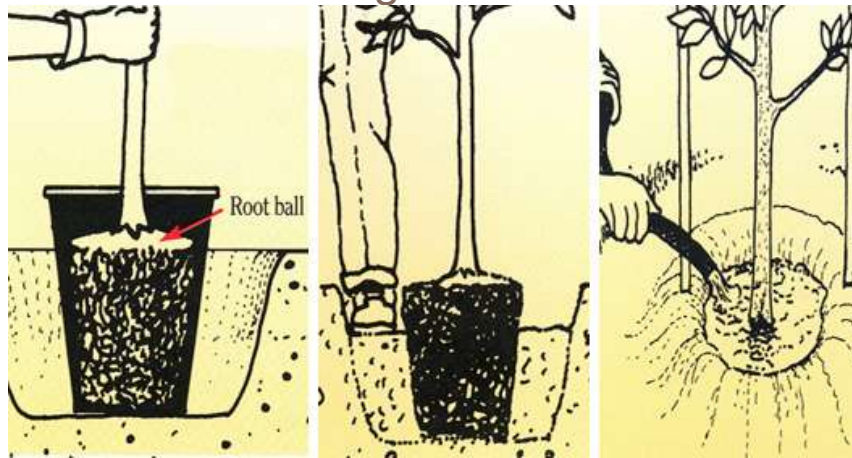


Planting Your Trees



1. Dig in!

Dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball and slightly shallower than the root ball. (The root ball is comprised of all the roots contained in a pot. The top of the root ball begins where the roots start to emerge from the trunk.)

2. Roughen the soil

If your planting hole has slick sides, roughen the sides and bottom with a pick or shovel. This makes it easier for root tips to penetrate into the native soil.

3. Remove the container

Be gentle but firm when removing the container from your tree. Making sure to protect the foliage, as you gently pull off the pot.

4. Separate the roots

Check the root ball for circling roots. If circling roots are left in place near the trunk, they will cut into the trunk as the trunk's girth expands. Gently uncurl and straighten the roots so that they are going outward from the trunk. Do this quickly and shade the tree roots from the sun, so they don't dry out and die.

5. Don't bury the trunk

If soil covers the base of the trunk, it will lead to rot. Aim to have the top of the root ball about 1/2 to 1 inch above the surrounding soil surface, making sure not to cover it with soil unless roots are exposed. Adjust the hole depth by lifting the tree out of the hole (lift it by the root ball, not by the trunk) and adjusting the soil level in the planting hole.

6. Avoid "J-rooting"

If you have not dug the hole deep enough, the temptation is to push the root ball into the hole to make it fit. If the ends of the roots are folded over in a "J" shape it will likely kill the tree eventually. Dig the hole deeper as needed so the top of the root ball is level with the surface of the soil or just a little above.

7. Pack the soil

Pack down the soil as you backfill. Press down firmly to collapse any large air pockets in the soil. This will help stabilize the tree in the hole. Don't wait until the planting is finished; press down as you go.

8. Water!

Build a watering basin around the root ball by creating a berm a little larger than the root ball perimeter. This concentrates water to the root ball. Need to water your tree thoroughly after planting. Monitor your tree's water needs at least once a week for the first month. This will give you an idea as to the frequency your tree will need water growing in your particular soil.

9. Stake or protect with "Blue Tubes"

Stake the tree for protection or support if needed, or use Blue Tubes. (See the attached flyer.)

10. Mulch

Cover the entire planting area with a layer of mulch. Mulch keeps the topsoil temperate for root growth, reduces surface evaporation of water, slows or stops weed and grass growth around the tree's base, and prevents a hard crust from forming on the soil surface.

All this information is from <http://www.treepeople.org/how-plant-tree>

Mulching Guidelines



Got mulch? You can use less water and improve the health of your trees and plants by using a layer of mulch, three to four inches deep, around your trees. Instead of having your “yard waste” hauled away, you can mulch by simply allowing fallen leaves and other plant matter to stay on the ground.

1. Make or obtain mulch

To make your own: When you prune trees, you can chip the non-diseased branches into mulch using a chipper or your own pruning tools. Chippers will work on branches up to 3 inches in diameter. You can purchase or rent one from home improvement stores or equipment rental businesses.

Do not use grass clippings as mulch around plants. They smother the soil and do not allow oxygen to get into the soil. Compost your grass clippings instead.

Under existing trees and shrubs, allow the leaves and branches to fall and stay on the soil. Do not rake them up and throw them away, unless they are diseased.

2. Remove weeds

Remove weeds from around the base of the tree before mulching.

3. Break up the soil

If the soil surface is highly compacted, break up the surface using a metal rake or shovel before mulching.

4. Place the mulch

Place a 3- to 4-inch layer of mulch around the tree. Keep the mulch at least 2 inches away from the base of the tree. If possible, mulch all the way out to the dripline (the dripline is the area that reaches out from the trunk and extends to the end of the branches). Be sure to mulch over the berm if you've created one around your tree.

Additional mulching tips & resources

- Tree pruning and landscape maintenance companies are another good source for mulch. Some companies will deliver for free to avoid a disposal fee at the landfill.
- Do not buy sawdust or wood shavings for mulch. These won't allow enough air into the soil.
- Wood or bark chips work best when they are between one and three inches in size. Pieces smaller than that can smother the soil and do not allow enough oxygen to get into the soil. Larger pieces get kicked around or can cause tripping.