

SEVEN EASY STEPS TO PLANTING YOUR TREE

1. When your tree arrives at your home immediately check to ensure that it has adequate moisture around the root ball - it should be kept moist at all times. Submerge in water if necessary.

2. After choosing the optimum location for your tree, prepare a hole approximately 3' wide and 1.5' deep or 2 x the root ball size. The hole should have a flat bottom (not pointed) with a few inches of loose soil on the bottom. **Be sure that the hole is not too deep for your tree. Try it out, the stem should be at the same soil level as it was in the nursery and the trunk flare visible.**

3. *Trees in nursery containers:* Remove tree from pot. Make sure the soil in the pot is completely moist. Check for dry spots. Soaking the tree in the pot in a larger bucket of water for an hour or so will thoroughly wet the root ball. Cut any circling roots and slice through any matted roots. Place the tree in the hole with the root ball level with the ground surface and trunk flare visible. Straighten tree.

Trees wrapped in burlap: Place tree in hole with the burlap on. Partially fill the hole to stabilize the root ball. Make sure tree is straight. Undo and remove any twine, cut and remove any net like wire basket as far down as possible. Heavy wire cages should be cut away from the top and sides of the root ball. Peel back and trim burlap.

Trees in root control bags: Remove plastic bottom from bag. Slice down two sides of the bag and pull bag away from root ball. Some roots may be broken but will re-grow. Complete removal of the root bag is best. If this is difficult, slash the bag from top to bottom 10-12 times around the bag. Place tree in hole and partially fill hole to hold root ball. Make sure tree is straight.

Bare root trees: Prune any damaged roots. Identify trunk flare to determine hole depth. Add a small mound of soil at bottom of hole. Place tree on mound and gently spread out roots. Hold tree straight and gently add and pack soil to firm the tree.

Back fill with soil from hole. Add soil in layers gently firming and watering each layer to get it to settle, ensuring there are no air pockets.

4. When you are satisfied that everything is ready, add organic material if required, begin to gently shovel good topsoil and compost alternately into the hole around the root ball, tamping it firmly with the heel of your foot as you go. Sprinkle a couple of handfuls of bone meal as you fill the hole. Mulch with 1" of bark mulch or fish compost. Do not pile around the trunk. This practice should also be used when planting potted trees and shrubs!

5. Always stake newly planted trees with a least one stake. Use a 2" by 2" x 7' wooden stake driven into the ground 8" - 12" from the main stem on the side of the tree the wind blows from. Attach the stake to the tree with a piece of inner tube or wire inside of garden hose.

6. Water your tree thoroughly directly after planting and deep-water twice per week the first summer. Maintain a circle, free of grass and weeds, around the stem until the tree matures; this ensures water reaches the roots. The circle should be at least 3' in diameter.

7. At the start of the second growing season you will need to implement a fertilizing program for your tree.

