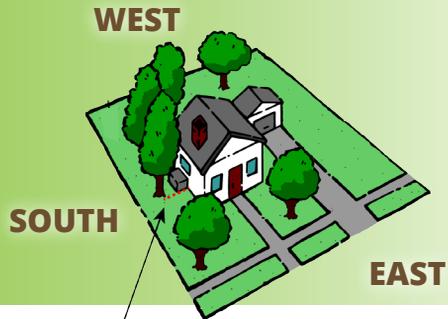


TREE PLANTING GUIDELINES

SAVE ENERGY

Plant trees to the West and East of your house to save energy.

Plant 15-20 feet away from your house. You can still get good energy savings at 40 feet with larger trees.



Plant trees 15-20 feet away from the house

BE SAFE



CALL **811** BEFORE YOU DIG

Call Dig Alert at 811 at least 2 days before planting to make sure that you don't have any gas or utility lines where you want to plant.

STEP 1 PLANTING

You will need the following tools:

- Shovel
- Water (*a hose or a bucket*)
- Gloves - *optional*
- Composted mulch (shredded bark, wood chips, or leaves) - *optional*

Until you plant, keep the soil in the tree container moist, and protect the tree from the sun. When you're ready to plant your new tree, follow these steps:

1. Dig a hole at least twice the width of the tree's container. **VERY IMPORTANT** - Measure to ensure the top of the root ball (where the trunk ends) will sit 1 to 2 inches above the surrounding ground when placed in the hole.

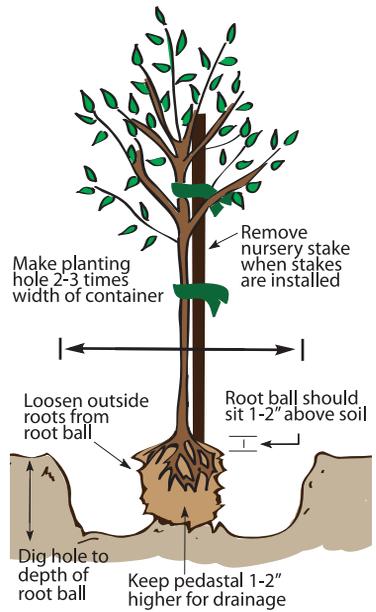
2. Remove the tree from the container. Avoid damaging the root ball. Gently place the tree in the hole, and massage the roots gently. Backfill the hole with the soil you dug out, and make sure the top of the root ball is 1 to 2 inches above the surrounding soil level.

3. Lightly tap or poke the soil around the root ball to eliminate all air pockets. **Do not put soil on top of the root flare/ball.**

4. Mound the remaining soil into a berm around the edge of the planting hole, which will ensure that the water sinks directly into the tree's roots.

5. Water thoroughly immediately after planting to soak the planting area and settle the soil.

6. **Optional:** Place a 3-inch layer of composted mulch, such as shredded bark, wood chips or leaves, around the tree to help control weeds, regulate soil temperature, and prevent evaporation, thus retaining water in the soil. **Keep the mulch at least 2 to 3 inches away from the trunk - the trunk will rot if covered.**

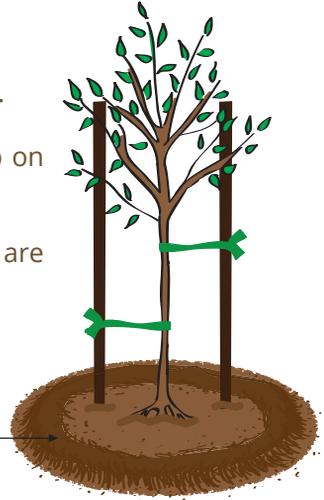


STEP 2 STAKING

Stake a tree only if it cannot support itself.

- Place stakes on the opposite sides of the tree.
- Ensure the stakes don't interfere with or rub on any major branches.
- Pound stakes into the ground so that they are sturdy.
- Remove the nursery stake from the tree.

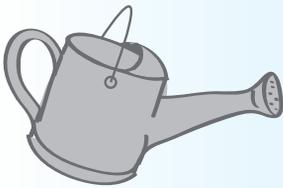
Berm helps water sink into roots



STEP 3 WATERING

Watering regularly is crucial to help your tree survive its first 3 years in its new home. Trees and grass like to be watered differently. Here are some tips to get it right!

How do you know if your tree is thirsty? Check the soil frequently by inspecting it at a depth of 2 to 3 inches around the root ball. If the soil won't form a ball or crumbles when you press it together between your fingers, your tree is thirsty and needs water.



TO WATER:

Your tree wants a slow soak. Fill a five gallon bucket of water and gently pour into the tree well three times. Wait each time for the water to soak into the ground.

Note: *If you want to water your tree with a hose, it needs to be done with a slow trickle. Estimate how long it takes to get to fifteen gallons by letting your hose fill a five gallon bucket. Make note of the time, and multiply by three. When watering with a hose, make sure that the water does not escape the walls of the berm - it should sink directly into the roots.*

When should you water your tree?

1ST & 2ND YEAR: Deep water your shade tree once a week with 15 gallons. Water your fruit tree 17-20 gallons once a week.

3RD YEAR: Deep water every 4-6 weeks during the year, water a little more during the summer. Continue to check the soil for its moisture level if you're not certain whether or not the tree needs water.

ONGOING: Your tree will likely not need as much water going forward, but continue to monitor it and give it extra water as needed, particularly in the summer heat. Do not count only on your sprinklers to water your tree. Rather, if your tree looks stressed, slowly water directly over the roots.

Remember: do not keep the soil saturated with water; water only when the soil shows signs of light moisture or dryness.



The 5-gallon trees you receive through City Plants will not yield immediate shade. However, planting trees when they are young allows them to establish themselves early, and if planted correctly, they will grow vigorously. Just as young children start out full of promise and grow into their potential, so will the trees you plant today grow large and strong!



www.cityplants.org

