

# How to plant a tree

*Before digging, notice and avoid overhead utilities, call 811 to have underground utilities marked.  
Remember: Right Tree, Right Place.*

1

Dig the hole and make it a minimum of 1 ½ times the diameter of the root ball. Dig the hole wider if planting in heavy clay soil.



2

Remove the container and tease the roots or root prune if necessary to remove any girdling roots. Remove the twine, burlap and wire basket while positioning the tree and keeping it straight.



3

Set the tree in the hole and make sure the trunk flare is at or above finished grade.

4

Backfill with the topsoil and compact lightly with your hand or foot to hold the tree in place.



7

Only stake the tree if necessary, using two stakes and tie, never stake a tree with the stake tied across the trunk.

5

Make sure to water the new tree thoroughly after planting to remove any air pockets in the soil and to reduce transplant shock.

6

Spread 1 to 3 inches of organic mulch evenly out to the perimeter of the planting. Do not pile mulch against the trunk.



8

Newly planted trees need at least one inch of water per week during the growing season.