



TREE CARE GUIDE

Tree Planting

1. SELECTING THE TREE:

Choose the right tree for the right place!

- ☛ Do not plant large trees under power lines.
- ☛ Consider impact of root system --roughly the size of canopy-on sidewalks and sewers.
- ☛ Determine shade needs: large canopies for parks and open roadways; smaller trees for sidewalks and parking lots.
- ☛ Consider local climate and watering needs - use native trees whenever possible.
- ☛ At the nursery, pick healthy trees that show new growth, have good branching structure, and are not root-bound.

2. PLANTING THE TREE

Do not plant during the summer heat !

- ☛ Plant trees preferably in late fall or early spring when the soil is moderately wet but not soggy.
- ☛ Dig hole 2-3 times the diameter of the root ball and 1-2" shallower than the root ball. Break up compacted soil and sides of planting hole.
- ☛ Remove root ball from container by cutting container and/or lifting by base of trunk - be careful to keep root ball intact. If ball has root bound circling roots, massage or cut roots loose.
- ☛ Balance tree in planting hole. Check depth - base of trunk 1-2" **above** surrounding ground level.
- ☛ Refill the hole with soil and gently tamp.
- ☛ Remove any tree wrap, string, and labels on tree.

3. STAKING THE TREE

Do not strangle the tree!

- ☛ Stake and brace only if top heavy, at an extremely windy site or in a heavily-trafficked area.
- ☛ Use proper tree stakes to avoid damaging roots.
- ☛ Use two stakes, one on each side of root ball. Place the stakes so that they are at right angles to the prevailing winds.
- ☛ Tie tree LOOSELY with proper tree ties. Place the ties (usually 2) so that the top of the tree MOVES FREELY (4-6 inches) in the wind. Place the ties no higher than necessary.
- ☛ **IMPORTANT:** Remove original nursery stake from the tree trunk.

4. MULCHING/WATERING THE TREE

Do not let newly planted trees dry out!

- ☛ Spread 2-3" of composted material (wood chips, leaves) at least to the diameter of the tree canopy. Leave a circle of bare soil around the trunk.
- ☛ Water deeply if no rain in the forecast. **Do not forget about your tree after planting!**
- ☛ Deep water regularly during the first few growing seasons. Allow water to run slowly, thoroughly soaking the root zone.
- ☛ Keep lawn mowers and string trimmers away from trees to avoid wounding trunk.
- ☛ Do NOT use herbicides within the canopy of the tree.
- ☛ Replace mulch as needed to keep grass and weeds from competing with tree.
- ☛ Remove stakes and ties after one year, unless site is extremely windy. DO NOT stake longer than two years.

5. PRUNING -- Careful with pruning !

- ☛ Prune dead or injured branches immediately; always cut close to the collar at a branching point (see guide).
- ☛ Prune carefully beginning in the second growing season for good structure and strength (see guide).
- ☛ NEVER TOP TREES!

