

HOW TO PLANT A TREE

These instructions will help you plant and care for your new tree seedling.

FALL LOOK OF TREES

The trees and shrubs you receive today may not have many leaves or the leaves may be turning yellow. This is typical for this time of year, especially for smaller, container-grown trees and shrubs. Be sure to plant and water right away. Take care when removing the trees from the container to avoid too much of the soil falling away from the roots of the plant. See the directions below for how to plant your new tree or shrub.

BENEFITS OF FALL PLANTING

Many people fear that young trees can't withstand the winter. However, that's not the case. Trees go dormant in the winter, the equivalent of hibernation. This "sleep" state slows down the tree's growth, energy consumption, and metabolism. Planting in the fall gives trees an extra growing season before the stress of summer. The combination of cooler temperatures and fall rain allows trees to establish their roots, making it easier for them to adjust to extreme heat or drought in the summer.

PLEASE HELP US - RETURN YOUR EMPTY POT

By returning the empty tree containers, we can grow more trees next season. Please return the empty containers to Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. Look for the marked drop off location. Containers can be returned any time the park is open.

Ensuring proper planting techniques provides a foundation for your trees to thrive. Follow these general planting steps after selecting the right tree for your space.

Homeowners must contact the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) by calling 8-1-1 within 2 to 10 working days before beginning any digging. After collecting your information, OUPS notifies utilities where you plan to dig and the type of work. Next a locator will visit to mark your underground lines, pipes and cables. You'll know what's below and can dig safely. Call 8-1-1 before you dig so you know where utility or sewer lines run.

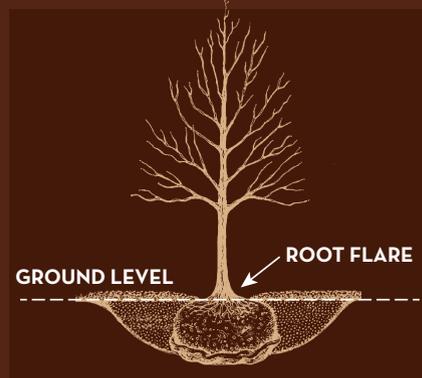


2. PULL TREE OUT OF CONTAINER

Lay the container on its side and carefully pull the tree from the container. It helps to tap the sides to loosen the tree from the container. Keep the soil intact around the tree's roots.

3. PLACE TREE IN HOLE

Place the tree in the center of the hole. Be sure not to plant the tree too deep. Look for the root flare (see photo). If the tree is too low, add soil under the root ball to bring the root flare 2 to 3 inches higher than ground level. Add soil back around the tree – taking care not to cover root flare, making sure there are no big air pockets and that the soil is not overly compacted.



4. WATER THE TREE

Water the tree thoroughly and slowly to allow water to penetrate the soil at the drip line.

5. ADD MULCH

Add mulch 2 inches deep around the tree. Do not place mulch next to the tree trunk.

6. CONTINUOUS CARE

The tree will need to be kept moist but not soggy. Water the tree every 5-7 days, as often as needed to ensure it receives the equivalent of 1 inch of rainfall each week. Feel under mulch layer to determine if soil is dry. Water the area in the drip line of the tree. Continue watering until the tree is dormant in the fall. New plantings require additional watering for the first year and up to three years.



Visit the Arbor Day Foundation for detailed instructions and a video on planting trees at frmp.it/ADplanting

