

How to Plant a Tree

You will need:

- Shovel
- Regular mulch – avoid dyes
- Wire cutters for the root cage
- Gardening claw to separate girdled roots
- Garden hose or pail – watering cans and rain are not strong enough
- OPTIONAL
 - Tarp for easier dirt collection,
 - Rake to level dirt mound
 - Watering bag or tree diaper – lasts 3 years
 - Gardening gloves
 - Pruners

Step-by-step instructions

1. Dig a hole 2 to 2.5 times the diameter of the root ball.
2. Dig to a depth such that the root flare is level with the ground.
3. Remove the root cage, if any.
4. Pull the burlap bag around the root ball two-thirds of the way down/off.
5. Place the tree in the hole.
6. Use the gardening claw to break up any girdled (wrapped) roots and help stabilize the tree.
7. Fill the hole back up halfway with soil.
8. Add water to thicken the soil so that the stake is not necessary to keep the tree upright before the tree takes root. Trees often come in conveniently 15-gallon pots, which is the recommended maximum amount of water for young trees.
9. Finish refilling the hole to ground level.
10. Pack in the soil over the tree.
11. Water the packed soil.
12. Make a small berm encircling the hole with the remaining soil.
13. If you want, place a tree diaper flat around the base of the tree.
14. Lay down 2 inches of mulch over the hole.
15. Remove any tags or cords on the tree using pruners or scissors.
16. Remove the stake.
17. Do not structurally prune the tree for 3 years.
18. Congratulations on your new tree!