

HOW TO PLANT A CONTAINERIZED TREE

The goal of tree planting is to have a vigorous, healthy tree that lives to the limits of its natural longevity. Achieving this goal begins with careful tree selection. Next, the tree must be handled carefully until it is safely installed in its new home.

1. Carry trees carefully. When transporting, load and unload gently, being careful not to break branches. Always provide support beneath balled and potted plants.
2. Keep roots moist! Depending on the trees and how long you must store them before planting, techniques to prevent drying vary. They include re-dampening the packing material around small bareroot seedlings and storing in a refrigerator between 30-40 degrees F.
3. Bare root trees of all sizes may also be stored by placing the roots and their packing material under loose soil in a shallow trench. The garden often is a handy place to do this while actually planting, continue to protect the roots from packed sun by wrapping in wet burlap or carrying in a bucket of water, possibly with mud, moss or sawdust added.
4. Balled and burlaped or potted trees should be checked for dryness by finger length probing into the soil sprinkle or place if necessary. Then store them in a cool garage or area out of the wind.

HOW TO PLANT A BAREROOT TREE

1. Unpack tree and soak! Do NOT plant with packing materials attached to the roots and DO NOT allow roots to dry out.
2. Dig a hole, wider than seems necessary, so the roots can spread without crowding. Remove any grass within a three-foot circular area.
3. Plant the tree at the same depth it stood in the nursery, without crowding the roots. Partially fill the hole, firming the soil around the lower roots. DO NOT add soil amendments.
4. Shovel in the remaining soil. It should be firmly but not tightly with your heel. Construct a water holding basin around the tree. Give the tree plenty of water.
5. After the trees have soaked in water. A 2 inch deep protective mulch in an 3 feet in diameter around the base of the tree (not touching the tree)
6. Water the tree generously every week or 10 days during the first year.
7. If a tree is planted correctly, it will grow twice as fast and live at least twice as long as one that is incorrectly planted. Ideally, dig or root till an area one foot deep and approximately 4 times the diameter of the root ball. The prepared soil will root growth beyond the root ball and results in a healthier tree. In transplanting a, be sure to keep soil around the roots. Always handle your tree by the ball, not by the trunk or branches. Don't let the root ball dry out! Help prevent root girdling be vertically cutting any roots that show tendencies to circle the root ball.