



My New Tree: Where Should I Plant It?

*Before you plant your tree, there are a few important considerations to keep in mind.
Great trees start with “Right Tree, Right Place!”*

1. First, make sure you have enough room for the tree to grow. Consider the mature height and spread of the tree you are choosing when thinking about a location.
2. Sun vs. Shade—is your yard in the shade all day or do you have blasting sun all afternoon? A combination of the two? Think about how much sun the site gets throughout the day to help inform your choice since some trees may prefer afternoon shade.
3. Water requirements for trees vary. However, young trees require about 15 gallons per week through our dry months (May—October) .
4. Power lines—do you have them in your front and/or backyard? Planting a conifer type tree under a house wire may be less forgiving than if planting a shade tree. Be aware of powerlines in the street too if you have a very small front yard. Again, consider mature height and spread.
5. Other utilities to consider may be underground. In the state of Oregon, these utilities can be located for free. Make sure you “Call Before You Dig” at 811. Or visit Digsafelyoregon.com to request a free utility locate. If utilities are present, Urban Forestry recommends planting 5 feet away from underground utilities such as gas and water.
6. Planting near a building is okay but we recommend not planting closer than 10 feet. A bit further away would be better!
7. Planting near a known property line? It’s best to plant at least 2 feet away to avoid any misunderstandings with neighbors.

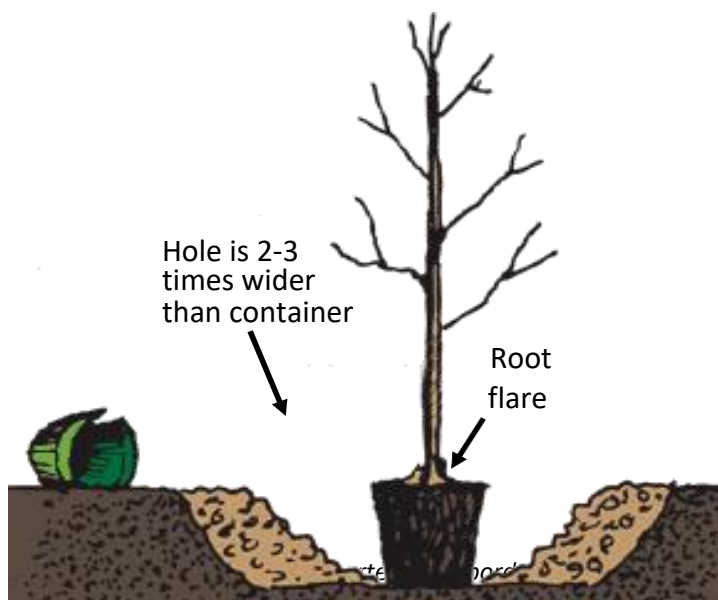


How to Plant a Containerized Tree

Planting is a difficult time in the life of a young tree. Here are a few easy steps to help ensure planting success and that the tree will be happy in its new home.

You can also check out our "How to Plant a Tree" video at www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/freetrees

1. Remove the bamboo stake that came with the tree from the nursery. These stakes are too tight and can girdle the tree if left on after planting.
2. Carefully remove the tree from the container keeping the soil around the roots intact. It helps to tap the outside of the container to loosen the edge.
3. Sometimes containerized trees become root-bound or the roots look like they're circling the root ball. If your tree is like this, use a saw to shave the sides of the root ball so root tips are pointing out instead of circling.
4. Find the root flare. The root flare is the first main root(s) that flares out from the trunk. You may have to remove a few inches of soil to find these roots (see pictures). When planted these roots should be at or just above the soil level. Planting trees too deep is a major cause of tree failure.
5. Dig a hole 2 to 3 times wider than the root ball and just as deep as the root flare. Use your shovel to fracture the sides of the hole, making it easier for the roots to spread through the soil. This is especially important if you have clay soil.
6. Backfill with the original soil. Gently tamp down the soil, but do not compact too much. Pull away any soil that has covered the root flare during this process.
7. Water thoroughly right after planting to encourage establishment.





Young Tree Care and Establishment

Proper establishment is the best way to ensure a long and healthy life for your new tree. The following are guidelines for watering and mulching your tree.

Watering

New trees need water to become established. They should be watered for the first three years after planting. Use the bucket with holes you received or a garden hose on low. Give your tree 15 gallons, once a week. Small rain showers are no substitute for a deep soak, which encourages the tree to develop a deeper root system. Water should be applied once each week from May through October.



Mulching

Apply a flat and wide mulch saucer around your tree each year. Mulch helps retain soil moisture and adds nutrients to the soil. Applying a layer that is 2—3 inches thick and 3—4 inches from the trunk is best. Mulch against the tree's trunk can lead to decay. The outside of the mulch ring should extend to the edge of the tree's canopy. A good mulch ring will also protect the trunk from string trimmers and lawn mowers.

Fertilizer and Soil Amendments

No need! This creates a false environment for young trees. They need to acclimate to their new place in the ground without any soil amendments.

Staking

No need! Trees don't need stakes unless they are leaning. In fact, allowing the tree to move, helps the trunk build wood in response to the wind. Remove the bamboo stake that comes with the tree at time of planting.

Mowing

Be mindful when performing yard work, such as mowing and weed eating. Cutting into the trunk can kill the tree. We recommend hand weeding around the tree.