

**AN EASY-TO-FOLLOW GUIDE TO
SUCCESSFULLY PLANTING TREES
THAT WILL THRIVE IN YOUR YARD.**

PLANTING AND CARING FOR A NEW TREE



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION™

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland





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AT LEAST 10'
FROM BUILDINGS

SERVICE
LINE

HIGH
VOLTAGE WIRES

AT LEAST
2' FROM PROPERTY
LINE

MEASURE
FOR MATURE
WIDTH OF
TREE

WHERE TO PLANT YOUR TREE

Location is everything! Consider these factors to find the best place in your yard for your new tree.

1. Size

How tall and wide will the tree be at maturity? Measure your space and ensure your tree will have enough room to grow.

2. Sun and shade

How much sun does your tree need? Watch your yard to see where it gets sun and where it stays shady. Plant according to your tree's preferred growing conditions.

3. Power lines

Don't plant directly under the service wires that run to the home – move the tree at least a few feet away. If there are high voltage lines, place the tree so its branches won't touch the wires when full grown. For example, a Douglas-fir matures to a 50 feet spread, so plant at least 25 feet away from high voltage lines.

4. Underground utilities

Call 811 before you dig to request a free utility locate. If present, plant trees at least 5 feet away from underground utilities such as gas and water.

5. Distance

Plant at least 10 feet away from buildings and at least 2 feet away from property lines.

HOW TO PROPERLY PLANT YOUR TREE

- 1. Remove the bamboo stake attached to the tree.** These stakes can girdle the tree if left on too long.
- 2. Remove the tree from the container, root pouch, netting, or burlap.** You may need to use a knife to cut off the root pouch. Remove any string or ribbon wrapped around the roots, trunk, or branches.
- 3. Saw the sides and bottom of the root ball if the roots are matted or circling.** Now, you should see root tips pointing out instead of circling. Trees in containers often become root-bound. This step is essential to encourage roots to grow outward into the soil.

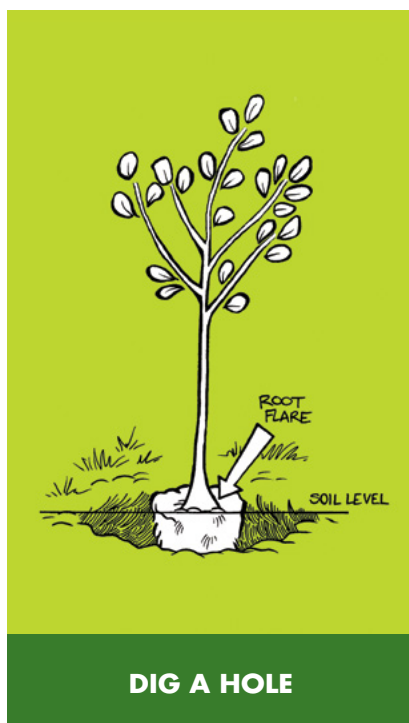
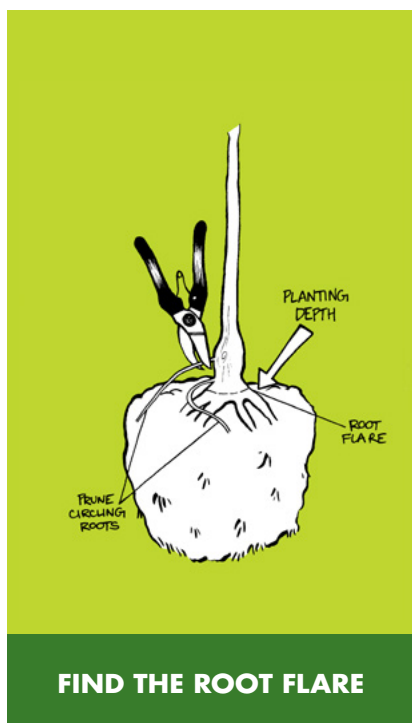


REMOVE BAMBOO STAKE



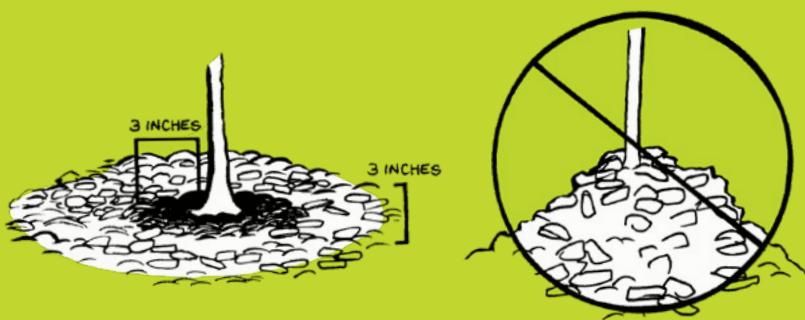
SAW ROOT BALL

- 4. Find the root flare.** This is where the first main roots flare out from the trunk. Typically, these roots are the size of your thumb. The flare is often buried, so you may need to remove some soil to find it. Remove any roots that circle the trunk above the root flare. This will prevent these roots from girdling the trunk as the tree grows.
- 5. Dig a hole.** Make sure the hole for your tree is 2 to 3 times wider than the root ball and only as deep as the root flare. Score the sides of the hole with a shovel. Both scoring and digging a wider hole make it easier for roots to move into the soil.



HOW TO PROPERLY PLANT YOUR TREE

- 6. Place the tree in the hole.** Keep the root flare at or slightly above the top of the hole and adjust as needed. Don't plant too deep! Planting too deep is a leading cause of early tree death.
- 7. Backfill with the original soil.** Pull away any soil that has covered the root flare.
- 8. Create a mulch ring and water thoroughly right after planting.** Apply a flat and wide mulch donut around your tree each year. Keep the mulch at least 3 inches away from the trunk and 3 inches deep. Do not cover the root flare. The outside of the mulch ring should extend to the edge of the tree's canopy.



CREATE MULCH RING

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR TREE

Watering

Water for the first three years after planting.

During the dry season (May through October) give your tree a deep soak once per week. Light rain showers or using a sprinkler are no substitute for a deep soak, which encourages a deep root system.

Apply 15 gallons of water over the roots, slowly. Use a 5-gallon watering bucket or a garden hose on low.

Fertilizer and Soil Amendments

No fertilizer or soil amendments needed! 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 staking needed! Your tree only needs to be staked if it is leaning. Allowing the tree to move helps the trunk build wood and strength in response to the wind.

Mowing

Be careful when using mowers and string trimmers. Cutting into the trunk can kill the tree. Hand weeding around the tree is always best.



WATER FOR 3 YEARS

MY TREE NOTES





Who are we?

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) Urban Forestry manages or regulates all trees in Portland. This includes issuing permits for planting, pruning, and removal, responding to tree emergencies, planting trees, promoting tree care, providing education, and studying our urban forest. Our mission is to manage and ensure Portland's urban forest infrastructure for current and future generations.

Why are we giving away trees?

Trees fight climate change, clean the air we breathe, and even improve public health. Portland is in need of more trees and has not yet met desired tree canopy goals. PP&R's Yard Tree Giveaway program makes it easy for Portland residents to plant trees in their own yards by reducing cost barriers and providing quality trees to choose from.

Who pays for these trees?

Portland's Tree Planting and Preservation Fund pays for trees that Urban Forestry gives away to Portland residents. Portland's Tree Code, Title 11, requires planting and preservation in various situations like tree removal or development. If trees are unable to be preserved or replaced, a mitigation fee is paid into the Tree Planting and Preservation Fund. This fund is then used to plant trees to replace the lost canopy.

TREES ARE BEAUTIFUL ADDITIONS TO OUR LANDSCAPES AND ESSENTIAL FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.

By planting trees in Portland, you help provide cleaner air, cooler temperatures, and better physical and mental health for generations to come.

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Questions about planting or caring for a new tree?

portland.gov/FreeYardTrees
freetrees@portlandoregon.gov
503-823-4963

Questions about tree permits, tree removal, or need to report a tree emergency?

portland.gov/trees
trees@portlandoregon.gov
503-823-TREE (8733)



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