Metro Tree Advisory Committee

Container Grown Tree Planting Guide

How to plant a tree video: Trees.Nashville.gov

**FOR EASE OF REMOVING THE ROOTS FROM THE CONTAINER**
Gently roll it on its side. Put pressure on all sides of the container to loosen the inside root ball. This may require a lot of pressure and stomping on it with your feet.

**PLANTING DEPTH**
Find the root flare where the trunk meets the roots. Place the tree in the hole so that the root flare is 2” higher than the surrounding ground level.

**MULCH**
- No more than 3”-4” thick
- Mulch should not touch trunk
- Make a lip at the edge

**DIG HOLE**
- Just about as deep as the roots
- Twice the width of the roots with sloping sides

**BACK FILL**
Use existing soil to fill in around the root ball. Do not tamp.

**WATER THOROUGHLY AT TIME OF PLANTING. WATER DEEPLY FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS DURING THE GROWING SEASON AND IN FUTURE TIMES OF DROUGHT.**

- Pick the tree up by the container, not by the tree
- Side Roots
- Bottom Roots
- CIRCLING Roots
  Redirect outwards any circling side or bottom roots and separate matted roots. You may have to be tenacious and use a shovel, pick, knife, and hands.
PLANTING DEPTH
Find the root flare where the trunk meets the roots. Place the tree in the hole so that the root flare is 2” higher than the surrounding ground level.

DIG HOLE
2” less than the height of the root ball and twice the width with sloped sides.

BACK FILL
Use existing soil to fill in around the root ball. Do not tamp.

BURLAP
Roll down burlap and any wire basket 2/3 of the root ball. Cut and remove all poly ties from root ball.

TRUNK GUARD
Remove transit guard wrapping on trunk and ties from branches.

MULCH
• No more than 3”-4” thick
• Mulch should not touch trunk
• Make a lip at the edge

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WATER DEEPLY FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS DURING THE GROWING SEASON AND IN FUTURE TIMES OF DROUGHT.