

## How to Plant Your New Tree

Before you dig call Underground Service Alert at 800-227-2600 four working days before you start working. Their advice will help make sure that the spot you have chosen doesn't have any underground lines that could endanger you or anyone else involved in the planting.



Planting is easy when you follow these steps:

- Remove and discard grass and weeds about 4 feet around your tree.
- Dig your hole 4 feet wide and 8 to 10 inches deep.
- Dig an additional 8 inches of soil around the edge to create a solid 12-inch wide pedestal in the center of the hole.
- Remove the entire root ball from the container. Thoroughly loosen and extend side and bottom roots from the root ball. Cut any roots circling the root ball with a sharp tool.
- Place the root ball on the pedestal so the root crown (where the trunk meets the roots) is about 1 1/2 to 2 inches above the surrounding ground level. Be careful not plant too deeply. The root crown (where trunk meets the roots) should be 1-1/2 inches to 2 inches above ground level.
- Place the existing soil back in the hole. Do not place grass or weeds in the hole. When backfilling the hole, avoid air pockets by lightly tamping, but don't compact the soil. Refill the hole only up to the top of the root ball.
- Be sure that you have properly staked the tree to allow for some trunk movement, encouraging strong and straight growth.
- Water your new tree deeply after planting. Check root moisture for newly planted trees. Do not be fooled by surface soil conditions: check the soil 4 inches to 6 inches deep. The soil should be moist, not soggy. Deep water by placing the hose against the trunk and letting the water drip all day or night. Properly apply woodchips/mulch.