

Homeowner's Tree Planting Guide

Check out this thorough and useful "how to plant your trees" resource: www.arborday.org/trees/planting/

Tips for Planting:

1. Choose the Right Place

Look in all directions and account for the future development of your tree. This includes [identifying your tree species](#) and allowing proper space for mature growth of your tree.

- Account for realistic spacing amongst other vegetation
- Avoid planting near power lines or too close to structures

Trees can only benefit future generations if they are given the opportunity to sustainably develop and mature. Choosing [the right tree in the right place](#) ensures there is a productive future for your new planting as well as avoiding an undesirable future removal.

2. Remove Container/ Basket

Root mass is fragile so take concern to handle it gently

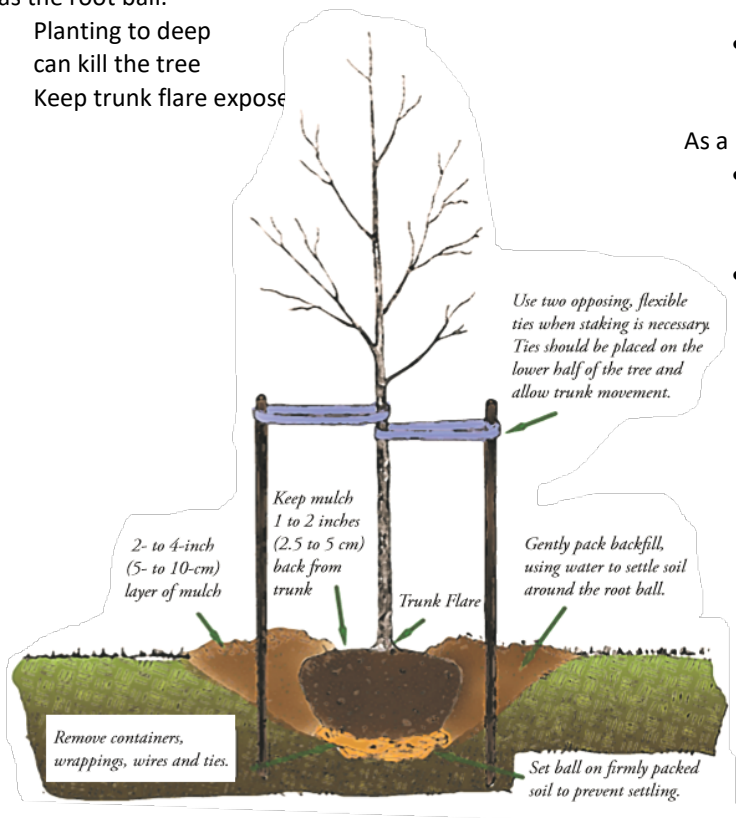
- Carefully slide tree out of the container or cut wire basket (if B&B)
- Straighten out and prune any girdling roots/ root mats
- Dig out to trunk flare if necessary

Nursery grown trees often have circling roots. It is important to mitigate this problem during the planting phase. Roots are the anchor, storage and nutrient providers of the tree.

3. Dig a Proper Hole

Holes should be 2 to 4 times wider than the root ball, but only as deep as the root ball.

- Planting too deep can kill the tree
- Keep trunk flare exposed



After Planting

1. Mulch

Mulch can improve soil structure, increase organic matter & soil biology, reduce soil compaction & erosion, and conserve moisture levels within the soil.

Cover the area around the tree with approximately 2-4 inches of mulch. Avoid letting the mulch rub [against the trunk](#). Create a water holding swell above the root ball.



2. Water

New trees are like babies- they need extra help and extra attention during their early years. So, water your tree thoroughly after planting! Provide extra water within the first few weeks of establishment. Thereafter, [water when needed](#), rather than on a strict schedule.

- More water during hot summer droughts, less was in wet spring days, winter, etc.
- With no natural moisture, the City of Golden tends to give each newly planted tree ~15 gallons per week for the first 2 years of establishment.

As a rule, water when the soil 2-4 inches deep has dried out.

- Deep root water. Frequent, shallow waterings encourage surface rooting which is neither healthy for the longevity of the tree nor turf nor infrastructure.
- Morning/ Evening watering. For efficient watering- avoid the hottest part of the day!



City of Golden. CO