

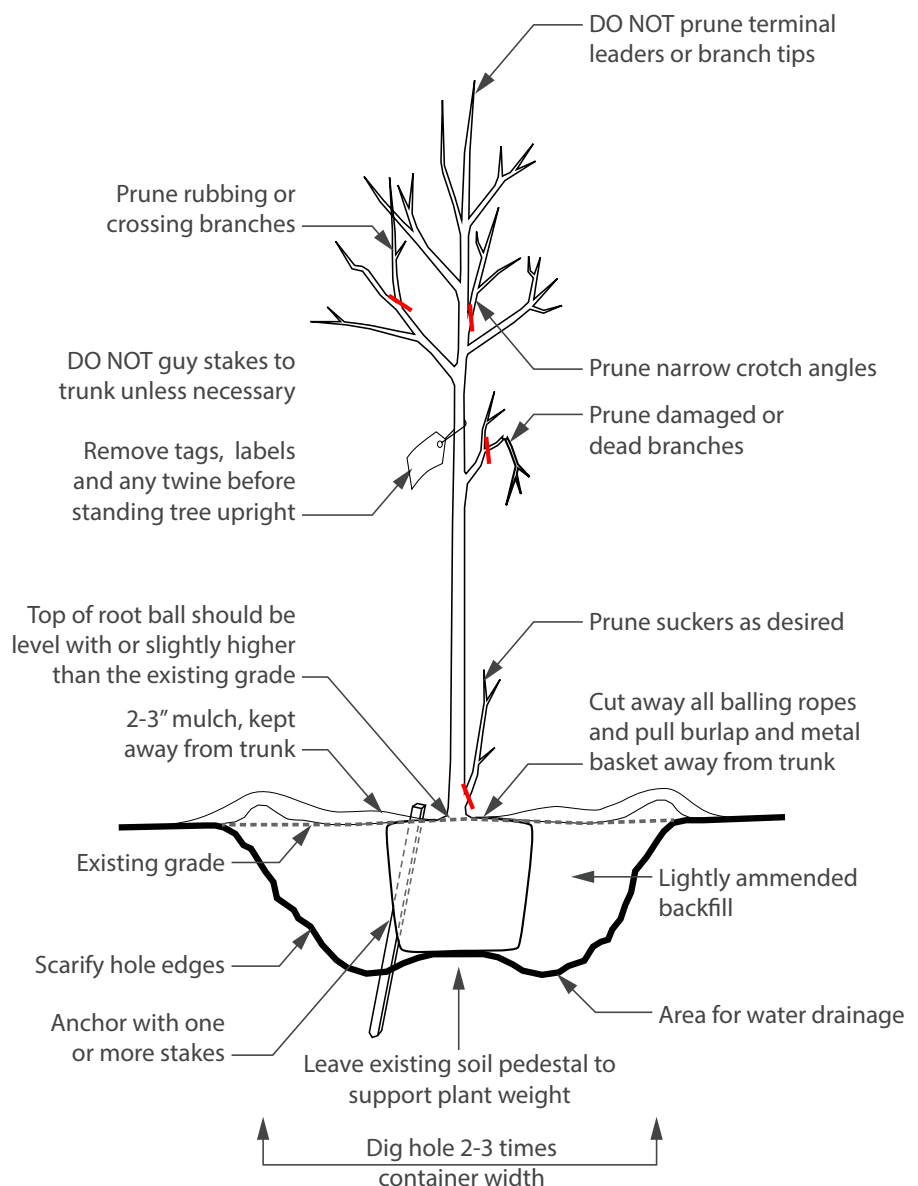
Plant A Tree

Container - Planting and Care

Container-grown specimens begin in a small pot and are replanted into larger containers as they grow. They have a complete and fibrous root system, allowing them to establish quickly and begin vegetative growth immediately.

Planting

1. Mark and excavate a hole two to three times the diameter of the plant container. The depth of the hole should be equal to the distance from the bottom of the container to the base of the trunk.
2. Lightly amend the excavated soil by mixing in aged pine bark fines or soil conditioner.
3. Cut and unwrap any tags or twine wrapping the branches, as these may be hard to reach once the plant is placed in the hole.
4. Remove the plant from the container and loosen the surface of the roots to release any girdling or spiraling roots. This will prevent the plant from becoming root bound and encourages healthy outward growth of the root system.
5. Place the plant into the hole verifying the depth is correct and that it is standing straight from all directions.



6. Backfill the hole halfway with amended native soil and tamp lightly to hold the plant in place. Verify that the plant is still standing straight and continue backfilling soil to the top of the root collar. Tamp soil lightly to ensure good soil contact with the roots and to prevent settling around the plant.
7. Create a water holding ring around the base of the plant by mounding soil 1-2” tall at about the diameter of the root ball. Spread 2-3” of mulch over the exposed soil except for a small 2” diameter around the trunk of the plant.
8. Prune damaged or dead branches as necessary.
9. Provide slow and deep watering to help eliminate air pockets and ensure even moisture.
10. Continue to water, monitor and fertilize as described below.

Ongoing Care

Soil should be monitored and kept moist throughout the first growing season and given additional attention during periods of dry and hot weather. Extended periods of monitoring and watering may be necessary for larger container plants.

Monitor New Plants

Determining when to water a new plant requires checking for soil moisture and assessing plant appearance on a weekly basis. Assess the overall condition of the plant and look for signs of stress such as wilting, dry, or yellowing leaves. Determine whether the surrounding soil is too dry, adequately moist, or too wet by digging down 2-3” and feeling for soil moisture. Keep a schedule of monitoring and track watering frequency and amount.

Encourage Deep Roots

Slow and deep watering is necessary to ensure even and adequate moisture is delivered to all roots and soil surrounding the plant. Over time, the frequency of monitoring and watering should decrease, but the duration of watering should increase. This process provides moisture when root systems are still tender and encourages deeper root growth as the plant begins to establish itself. The end result is deep-rooted plants that only require watering on an as-needed basis.

Protect from Frost

Young plants with unestablished shallow root systems are more susceptible to frost damage during the winter. Water plants and ensure even soil moisture prior to hard frosts to help protect plants from frost and root damage.