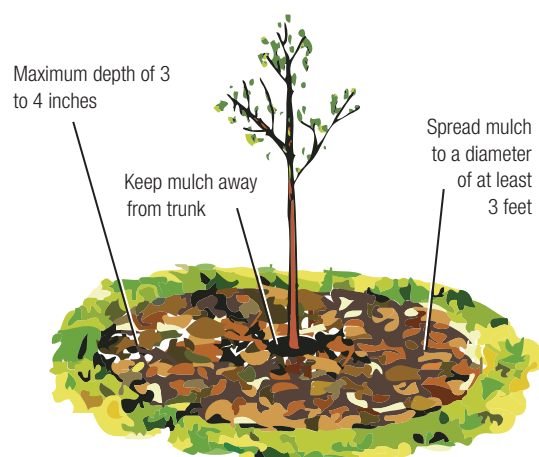


ADD MULCH AROUND Your Tree

A young tree's best friend, mulch insulates soil, retains moisture, keeps out weeds, prevents soil compaction, reduces lawn mower damage, and adds an aesthetic touch.

- 1 Add mulch to the base of your tree by removing any grass within a 3-foot area depending on the size of your tree.
- 2 Pour natural mulch such as wood chips or bark pieces 2 to 4 inches deep within the circle.
- 3 Keep the mulch from touching the trunk of the tree and avoid a mulch mound/volcano.



WATERING Newly Planted Trees.

Watering Trees During First Two Years:

During the first couple growing seasons, your newly planted tree is trying to establish new roots. Especially during the first few summers of your new tree's life, it will have a difficult time dealing with heat and drought. You can make this easier by providing water and covering the soil with wood-chip mulch. Deep watering, keeping the soil moist to a depth that includes all the roots, can help speed the root establishment.

As a rule of thumb, your soil should be moist. Usually 30 seconds with a steady stream of water from a garden hose with a diffuser nozzle per tree seedling is sufficient.

HOW TO PRUNE Young Shade Trees

Prune early in the tree's life so pruning wounds are small, **but do not start until the third year or so.** A new transplant needs its leaves to produce new growth.

FUTURE CARE of Your Tree

Watering



Pruning



Mulching



Identifying Pests & Disease



Learn more by visiting arborday.org/trees/tips

FOR STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

on how to plant your tree, including a helpful video, please visit: arborday.org/plantingtrees.

QUESTIONS About Your Tree?

If you have questions or concerns, or feel your tree may have arrived damaged or unhealthy, please take 2-3 photos and email them to info@arborday.org for our team to review.

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PLANTING AND TREE CARE INSTRUCTIONS



THANK YOU for planting and caring for your new tree. This tree will provide you and your community with many benefits including energy-savings, improved air quality, and reduced stormwater runoff.

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PRE-PLANTING CHECKLIST

- 1 Please Inspect Your Trees:** Upon arrival please inspect your tree for damage. In the spring your tree may be coming out of dormancy, meaning it is leafless or has a few swollen buds. Shipments in later spring will have fully developed leaves. During fall, leaves may be falling off or changing color as the tree prepares for winter. To check the health of your tree, scratch the trunk with your thumb nail and remove a small amount of outer bark. This should reveal a living layer of green tissue, your assurance that the tree is alive.
- 2 Call 811: “Call Before You Dig”** to notify of your planting. This service will mark your underground utility lines for free. They will typically mark your lines in a 48- to 72-hour window. While you wait, store the trees in a cool place and keep the soil moist.
- 3 Refer to your order confirmation email for your planting location:** Consider what the tree’s height, crown spread, shape, and root space will be at maturity so you can avoid future problems such as growing into power lines or encroaching on your neighbor. Think about the purpose of the tree: Visit arborday.org/righttree for helpful tips on selecting the best location for your tree.



DORMANT TREES: Yes, they’re alive!

Your trees are in the process of growing dormant. They are alive but not actively growing.

When you receive your trees, deciduous trees may be losing their leaves or have some leaves that will be changing color due to dormancy; evergreens may have a few yellow needles from winter cold.

A tiny scratch in the bark will reveal a living layer of green – your assurance that the plants are still very much alive even though they are “asleep.”



HOW SHIPPING MAY AFFECT Your Tree



As you unpack your tree, you may notice spots on the leaves. This can be a common occurrence as your tree has underwent the stress of being shipped in a box. Please proceed with planting your tree using the steps in the “Planting Your Trees” section to follow and be sure not to spray your tree. As your tree becomes acclimated to its new environment over time, you should see new healthy leaves begin to grow without spots.

PLANTING YOUR TREES

What you do to your tree in the first few years of life will affect its shape, strength, and even how long it will live. The following tips and techniques will help you get the most value out of your tree by making sure it will thrive.

The keys to this are:

- Proper planting
- Watering
- Mulching
- Proper pruning

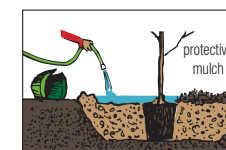
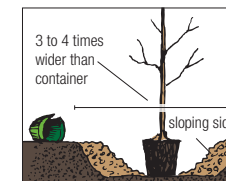
It’s best to plant your trees immediately. If you can’t plant because of weather or soil conditions, store the trees in a cool place, and keep soil moist.

- 1 Dig a hole** the same depth of the container and three to four times wider with sloping sides.
- 2 Lay the container on its side and carefully remove the tree** by tapping the outside of the container to loosen the trees roots and allow for easier removal. Try to keep the soil around the roots intact.



- 3 Containerized trees can become root-bound, a condition where a tree’s roots have grown to the edge of the container and have started to tangle. To correct this problem, cut an “X” across the bottom of the rootball and make four vertical slices on the sides of the rootball.**

- 4 Set the tree in the middle of the hole.** Make sure to adjust the height of the tree so that the root flare (the swollen area as the trunk meets the soil) sits at ground level. Then fill and firmly pack the hole with the original soil. Keep filling the hole until the soil is at ground level. Do not add any soil amendments or fertilizer.



- 5 Create a water-holding basin** (as pictured at left), and water generously.