



How to Plant a Healthy Tree

Start by choosing the RIGHT TREE FOR THE RIGHT PLACE. Make sure your tree has enough room to grow to its adult height and DON'T FORGET TO LOOK UP. You need to know the adult size of the tree you are planting and make sure it will not grow into utility lines, buildings or roads. At least 15 feet of space is needed for small trees and more for larger trees

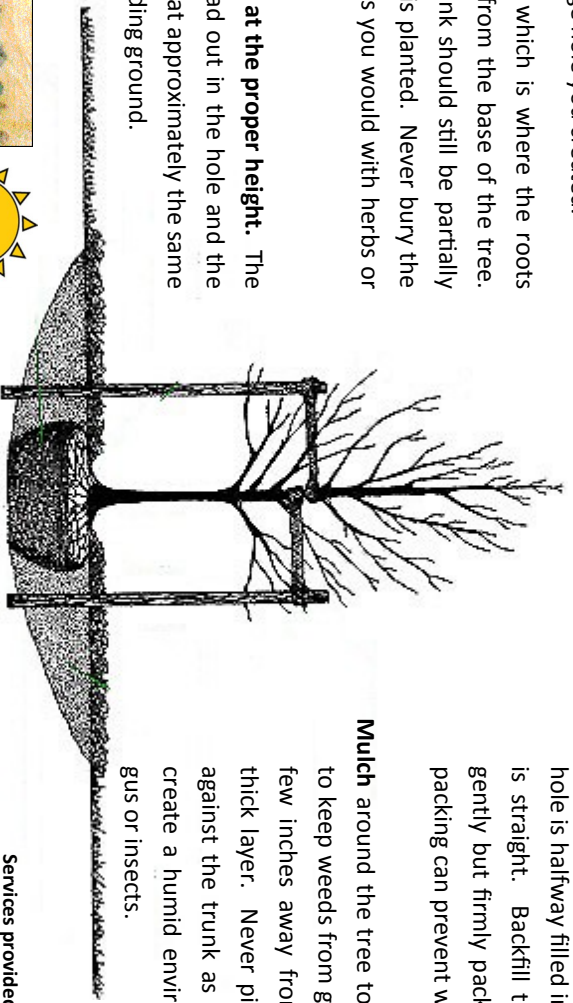
Dig a wide shallow hole about the same depth as the pot and roughly **three times the diameter** of your container, pot or root ball. It is important to dig a wide hole, not a deep one.



Remove the container, plastic, burlap or wire from around the tree's roots. These things only impede growth after planting. With your fingers, gently pull apart any coiled or 'potbound' roots. This is important to ensure the roots spread and grow into the large hole you created.

Identify the trunk flare, which is where the roots begin to spread out from the base of the tree. This point on the trunk should still be partially visible after the tree is planted. Never bury the trunk flair of a tree as you would with herbs or vegetables.

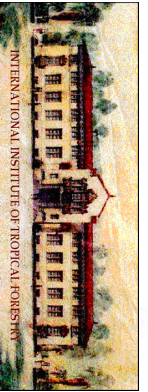
Place the tree in the hole at the proper height. The roots should be spread out in the hole and the trunk flare should be at approximately the same depth as the surrounding ground.



Staking the tree is not always necessary, but is recommended for roadside and urban planting. The ties should be tight enough so they do not rub the trunk and loose enough for the tree to flex in the wind. Staking is only for initially establishing the tree and should be removed after one year.

Backfill the hole using the soil you dug from the hole mixed in with and any compost. When the hole is halfway filled in make sure the tree trunk is straight. Backfill the rest of the hole, then gently but firmly pack the soil in place. Over-packing can prevent water reaching the roots.

Mulch around the tree to help retain moisture and to keep weeds from growing. Keep the mulch a few inches away from the trunk and apply a thick layer. Never pile mulch, soil or rocks up against the trunk as it can cause damage and create a humid environment for bacteria, fungus or insects.



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