



# My New Tree: Where Should I Plant It?

*Before you choose a tree for pick-up, there are a few important considerations to keep in mind. Great trees start with “Right Tree, Right Place!”*

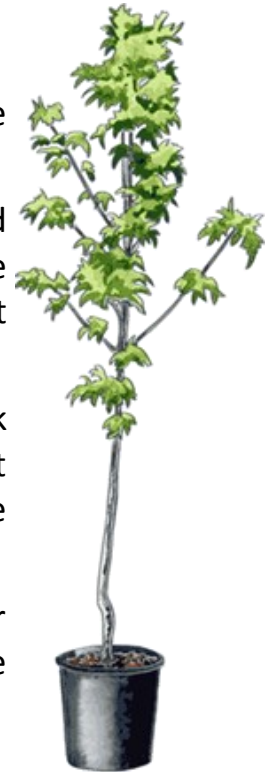
1. First, make sure you have enough room for the tree to grow. Consider the mature height and spread of the tree you are choosing when thinking about a location.
2. Sun vs. Shade—is your yard in the shade all day or do you have blasting sun all afternoon? A combination of the two? Think about how much sun the site gets throughout the day to help make your tree choice since some trees may prefer afternoon shade.
3. Water requirements for trees vary. However, all young trees require about 15 gallons per week through our dry months (May—September). Make sure you understand the responsibility of watering before you take a tree home.
4. Power lines—do you have them in your front and/or backyard? Planting a conifer type tree under a house wire will be less forgiving than a shade tree that will spread wider as it grows. Be aware of powerlines in the street too if you have small front yard. Placement is key when thinking about where the tree will eventually grow once it’s mature. Again, consider mature height and spread.
5. Other utilities to consider may be underground. In the state of Oregon, these utilities can be located for free. Make sure you “Call Before You Dig” at 811. Or visit [Digsafelyoregon.com](http://Digsafelyoregon.com) to request a free utility locate. If utilities are present, Urban Forestry recommends planting 5 feet away from underground utilities such as gas and water.
6. Planting near building is okay but we recommend not planting closer than 10 feet. A bit further away would be better!
7. Planting near a known property line? It’s best to plant at least 2 feet away to avoid any misunderstandings with neighbors.



# How to Plant a Containerized Tree

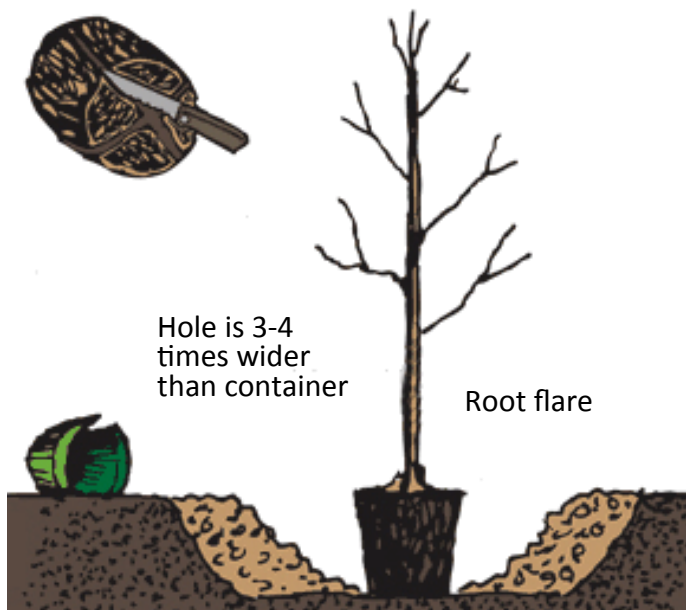
Planting is a difficult time in the life of a young tree. Here is a few easy steps to help ensure that the planting is successful and the tree will be happy in its new home.

1. Dig a hole 3 to 4 times wider than the container. The hole should have sloping sides like a saucer to allow for proper root growth.
2. Carefully remove the tree from the container keeping the soil around the roots intact. It helps to tap the outside of the container to loosen the edge. Carefully slide the tree from the container. Don't yank the tree out of the container as this can separate the roots from the tree.
3. Sometimes containerized trees become root-bound or the roots look like they're about to circle the root ball. If your tree is like this, cut an X across the bottom of the root ball and four vertical slices along the sides of the root ball with a sharp knife.
4. Make sure that the top of the root ball and flare (see below) are at or slightly above ground level. Planting trees too low is a major cause of tree failure.



*Images courtesy of Arborday.org*

Cut an "X" across the bottom of the root ball and 4 vertical slices, if root bound



5. Backfill with original soil, making sure to gently tamp and not to compact the soil too much. Use remaining soil to create an earth berm around the edge of the planting hole. This will help when watering the new tree.

6. Water thoroughly right after planting to encourage establishment and reduce large air pockets near the tree's roots.

***Congratulations! You just planted your new tree!***



# Young Tree Care and Establishment

Good establishment is the best way to ensure a long and healthy life for your new tree.

The following are guidelines for watering & mulching your tree.

## Water-

New trees need water to become established. They should be watered for at least the first two years after planting. Use a bucket or a garden hose on low to give your tree 15 gallons, once a week. Small rain showers are no substitute for a deep soak, which encourage the tree to develop a deeper root system. Water should be applied from May through September, or longer if the area where the roots grow is dry.



## Mulch-

Apply mulch around your tree each year. Mulch helps retain soil moisture and adds nutrients to the soil. Apply a layer that is 2-4 inches thick and 4 inches from the trunk is best. Mulch against the tree's trunk can lead to decay. The mulch ring should extend to the edge of the tree's canopy if possible. A good mulch ring will also protect the trunk from a string trimmer and lawn mower damage.

## Fertilizer and Soil Amendments-

No need! This creates a false environment for young trees. They need to acclimate to their new place in the ground without any soil amendments.

## Staking-

No need! Trees 1.5 inches in diameter and smaller don't need staking. But be mindful when performing yard work such as mowing to not hit the tree and damaging the trunk.