



How to Plant a Tree

1. Call "Miss Dig"

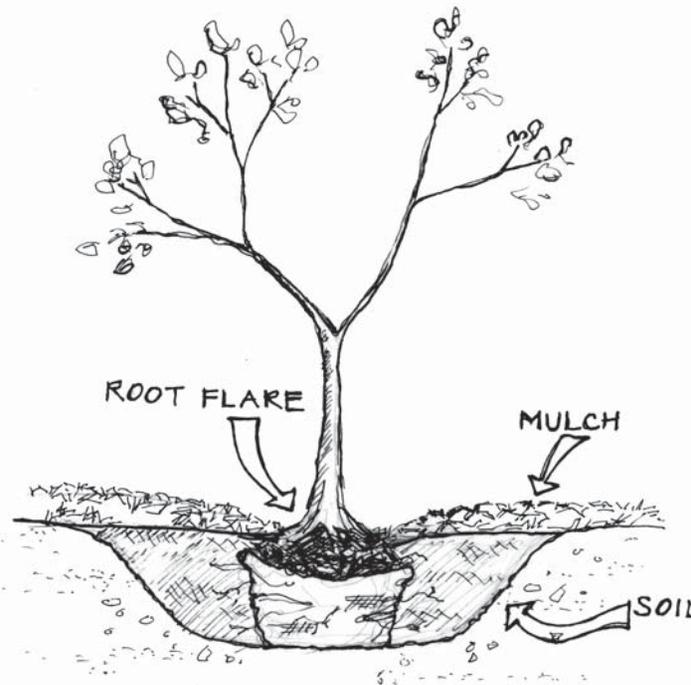
"Miss Dig" (1-800-482-7171) is a free service which identifies where all underground utilities are located on your property. Call at least one week in advance of your tree planting. If necessary, change your planting plans so as not to interfere with buried utilities. Adding a street tree to your extension requires a free permit.

Call the city's forestry office at (734) 994-2768.



2. Dig a wide hole

Digging a hole three times as wide as the diameter of your new tree's root ball helps it establish quickly. Leave the root flare – where the base of the trunk widens into the roots – partially exposed. Don't dig deeper than the height of the root flare. Peel back burlap to expose the root flare and one third of the root ball. Place the tree in the hole, lifting by the root ball, making sure the tree is sitting straight.



3. Refill and water

Refill the hole soil, carefully packing the first third of the soil around the root ball. Stamping the soil with your feet will result in too much compaction. Make sure there are no air pockets in the soil. Water with a soaker hose or slow trickle for 30 minutes.

No need to add fertilizer at this time.

5. Encourage your new tree

Regular watering is important within one to two years of planting your new tree. Water with a soaker hose or slow trickle in the mulched area for about 30 minutes once a week. Water needs to seep to a depth where it can be absorbed by roots. Nurture your tree by removing grass and weeds directly under the tree, and avoid spraying herbicides in the area. Prevent potentially fatal bark damage by not mowing close to the tree trunk



4. Apply mulch

Add mulch (any organic material: leaf litter, shredded bark, pine needles) starting three inches out from the tree trunk. Apply two to four inches deep as far from the tree as branches extend. This will reduce weeds, which compete for nutrients, and help the tree retain moisture. Mulching more than four inches deep may prevent necessary air exchange to roots.

