

How to Care for your FREE City Tree

How to Plant:

1. Dig the hole twice as wide as the diameter of the root ball.
2. Place the tree in the hole so that it sits the same height in relation to the soil line as it grew in the nursery.
3. Remove all plastic or metal containers completely. On balled and burlap stock, carefully remove any twine and fold back the burlap at least 3 inches from the surface.
4. Backfill should be good native soil or top soil. Tap the backfill in lightly with your heel to eliminate air pockets.

Where to Plant:

1. Allow for plenty of room for growth.
2. It is recommended to plant only small trees (25' or less) under overhead wires.
3. Do not plant at or near intersections that may cause visibility problems for motorists.
4. Planting too close to sidewalks, curbs and streets can result in damage to both the tree and the structure.
5. Be aware of potential below ground problems (underground utilities, sewer lines, poor soil conditions and building foundations).
6. The absolute key to good site and plant selection is to consider the size of the plant at maturity, not what the plant looks like when purchased.
7. To better assist you in site selection, please visit www.arboday.org. Here you can find tips on planting and care, as well as maturity size of various tree species.

How to care for your tree after it's planted:

1. Water, water and water! A slow watering 2-3 times per week the first year will keep your tree alive and healthy. After that water only in periods of dry weather.
2. DO NOT FERTILIZE for at least 2 years after planting.
3. Remove any tags or string left on the tree. Prune any broken or competing limbs. There should be minimal pruning the first couple years. After that refer to the website listed above for pruning techniques.