

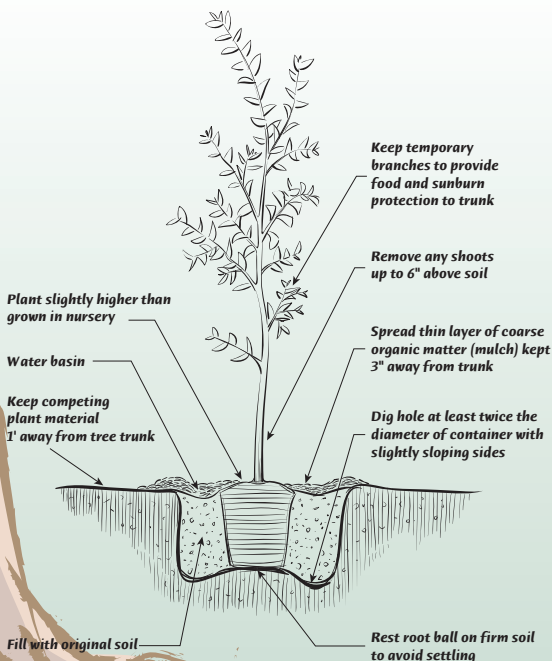
TREE PLANTING

Proper tree planting will insure a young trees survival.

Fall is the best planting season.

- ▶ The soil temperature is warmer
- ▶ More soil moisture is available through fall into spring
- ▶ Plants will transpire less due to shorter days and cooler temperatures
- ▶ Roots have more time to establish before warm summer temperatures arrive

Prior to planting, evaluate the site. Identify any soil problems. A common site problem is soil compaction or impervious layers. If compaction is shallow, tillage will aid in loosening the top layer. If there is an impervious layer, such as hardpan, drainage can be improved by breaking through the layer to allow water movement and rooting into the layers below.





If soil is either too sandy or clayey, modify management practices to accommodate the soil characteristics, such as more frequent irrigation in sandy soils or deeper but less frequent in clayey soils.

Prepare the planting hole:

- ▶ Hole should be at least twice the diameter of the root ball and as deep as the root ball. Plant "high" in all but sandy soils.
- ▶ Roughen the sides of the hole with a shovel to aid intermingling of backfill soil with existing soil to provide easier root penetration.
- ▶ Be aware of the location of underground utilities and pipes prior to planting.

After removing the tree from the nursery container, remove, cut or shorten matted and/or circling roots at the periphery of the root ball.

Place tree into the prepared hole on firm soil to avoid settling. Face the crook of a grafted union away from the afternoon sun to reduce possibility of sunburn. Once tree is positioned as desired, backfill with original soil. Do not put fill soil on top of the root ball.

When container grown trees are transplanted, the available water in the root ball moves into the surrounding soil. Water thoroughly, paying attention to wetting the potting mix as well as the surrounding soil. Mulch planting area with a coarse organic matter to retain soil moisture, but avoid piling against the trunk.

Fertilization is not recommended at planting. Avoid planting within a 12" diameter around a tree. Many turfgrass and broad leaf plants compete with young tree roots for water and nutrients and may have allelopathic effects on growth. Keeping plant material away can also help avoid damage to the trunk from string trimmers and mowers.

Only minor pruning to favor the development of basic branch structure is recommended at planting.

For more information about tree planting and staking, refer to ANR publication #8046 available for free downloading at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>, call your local UC Cooperative Extension office, or consult a certified arborist.



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