



Tree Planting Notes

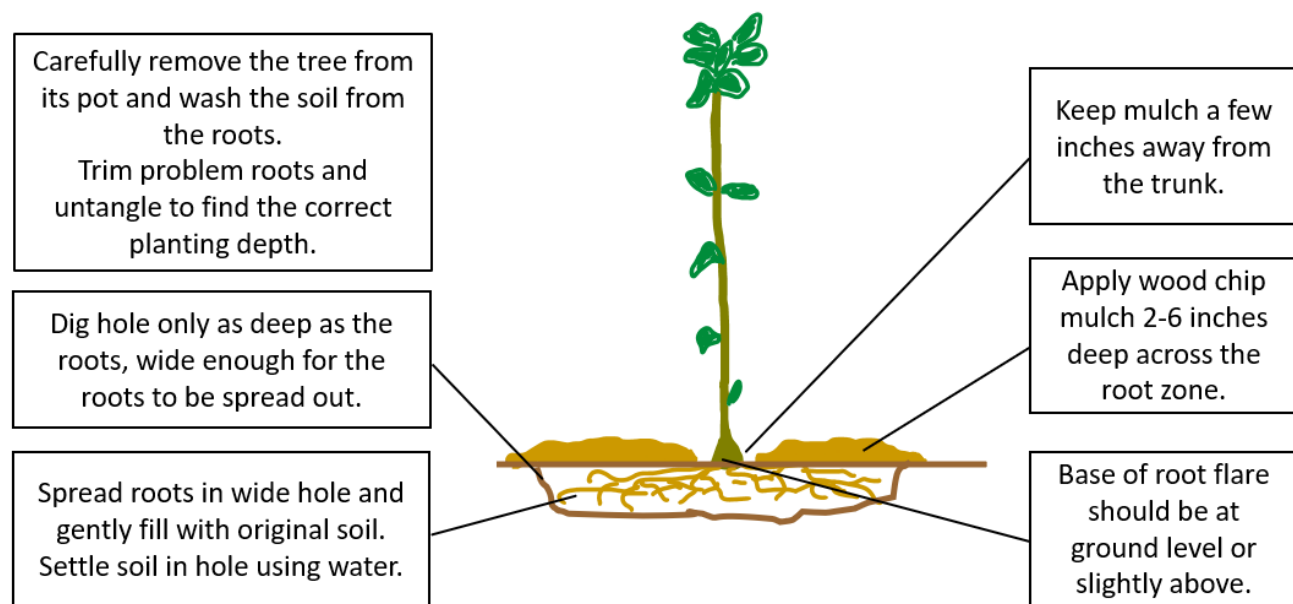
These notes supplement this video: https://youtu.be/Z_VJ5joXtHc

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Planting a tree



This guidance is intended for home gardeners.

Step by step: Planting a Tree

- Start with a small tree, 1, 3 or 5 gallon size.
 - Best chance of establishing successfully.
 - Easy to handle.
 - Less expensive than larger trees.

- Assemble tools:
 - Shovel
 - Wheelbarrow or other large container that can hold soil and water
 - Hose or water source
 - Clippers
 - Mulch
- Take the tree out of the pot.
 - Don't pull on the trunk, it's ok to pull on the stake.
 - Leave the nursery stake in place for now, it will protect the tree while it is being handled.
- Wash the soil from the roots into the wheelbarrow or container.
 - Once the soil is removed, keep the roots from drying out.
 - Save the soil and water in the wheelbarrow.
- Identify the root flare (often buried in nursery pots) – the area where the main roots attach to the trunk.
- All roots should be growing directly outward and away from the trunk.
 - Trees can't straighten their own roots once they are growing in the wrong direction.
 - Cut and remove all roots growing at odd angles, with kinks, or circling/wrapping around the tree.
 - If the root is soft and you can pull it in the right direction and it stays, you can keep it.
 - If the cut root has a stub, make sure the stub faces outward from the trunk.
 - Untangle the remaining roots.
 - Leave the roots in the water in the wheelbarrow while digging the hole.
- Dig a shallow and wide hole.
 - The hole should be just deep enough for the root ball and to keep the root flare at or a little above ground level - never dig a hole deeper than is needed.
 - Dig a hole wide enough so the roots have room to be spread out.
- Place the tree in the center of the hole.
 - Spread the roots outwards in the wide hole.
 - Keep the root flare above the soil.
 - Fill the hole with the soil and water in the wheelbarrow.
 - The soil will be muddy and will spread to fill all air pockets.
 - Do not step in the hole, or push on the soil or roots.
- Remove the nursery stake - cut the ties.
 - If the tree is standing well, there's no need to add stakes unless there are special conditions (animals that may push on the tree, a high-wind area).

- Stakes:
 - If the tree looks wobbly and like it might fall, break or come out of the hole in a wind, add stakes.
 - Use one of two stakes and tie low and loose.
 - The fewer stakes the better, the tree needs to move in the wind to build its caliper and taper properly.
 - Stake outside the root ball.
 - Never use a stake that is taller than the tree.
 - Tie as low as possible to let the tree move as much as it can.
 - Use a nail in the stake to set the tie height.
 - Use ties that are wide so they don't cut or rub the tree.
 - Tie loosely, again so the tree can move.
- Add mulch.
 - Chipped wood works well; keeps the soil moist and cool.
 - Do not put mulch against the trunk, but all around on top of the planting hole, a few inches from the trunk.
 - Mulch at least 2" deep.
- Keep the tree well watered for at least the first two years while it is getting established.
 - If a lot of roots were cut, don't be surprised if the tree doesn't grow for a while - it is putting its energy into building up its roots again.

Congratulations! The tree you have planted is set up for success: to be healthy, strong, and beautiful for many years to come.