



HOW TO PLANT TREES

A Guide by Howard EcoWorks

www.howardecoworks.org

SOD REMOVAL

- Remove sod in a circle.
- Circle diameter should be 3 X of the tree. Ex: a 5 Gal Tree about 1 ft across is a 3 ft circle.
- You can use empty buckets to haul sod & dirt away.



ILLUSTRATION

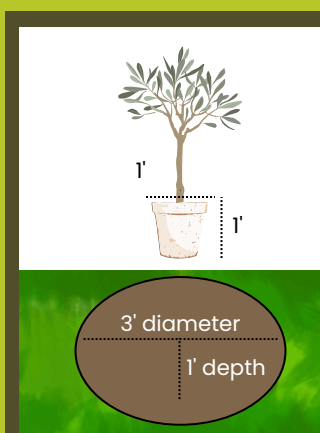


SOIL REMOVAL

- Dig a hole 1.5-2x as wide as the root ball of the tree.
- The bottom of the hole should be flat.
- The depth of the hole should match the root ball, so that when planting, the root flare is at the ground level.

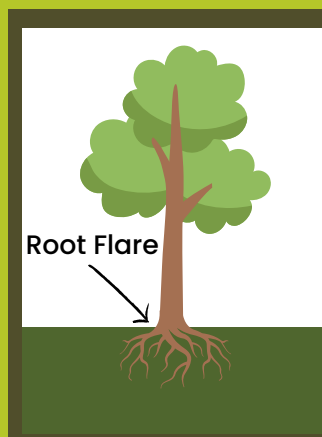


ILLUSTRATION



TREE PLANTING

- Remove pot & gently loosen the roots from circular shape.
- Place tree in hole and check tree root flare is equal height to surrounding soil. Too high or too low will cause health problems.
- Backfill with soil & compost mix, lightly tamping with hands and keeping tree straight.



ILLUSTRATION





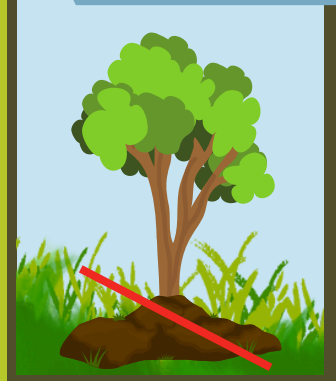
Learn more about "Care Instructions and Maintenance for Trees" here

MULCHING

- Create a mulch "donut", very thin near the tree and 2" deep starting 3" away from tree.
NO MULCH VOLCANOS!
- Too much mulch will cause health problems. Mulch volcanos will cause tree rot. Mulch should not touch tree trunk.



ILLUSTRATION



WATERING

- Water the tree with about 10 gallons after planting.
- Schedule:
 - Water 3 X per week for 2 weeks.
 - Then 2 X per week for 2 weeks.
 - Then once per week for 2 weeks.
 - Water once per week during summer months or when wilting.



ILLUSTRATION



STAKES & CAGING

- Install 2 wooden stakes on the outside of your mulch, parallel to each other.
 - Stakes can be 4' - 6' in height.
 - Will need a post pounder and hard hat.
 - Can substitute other materials.
- Apply 4' high wire (or plastic) caging on the outside of the wooden stakes.
 - Bend the cut wire in to interlock the cage
 - Use zip ties to secure the cage to the stakes
- Apply tree ties near the bottom of the tree to keep it straight & tie to stakes.



ILLUSTRATION

