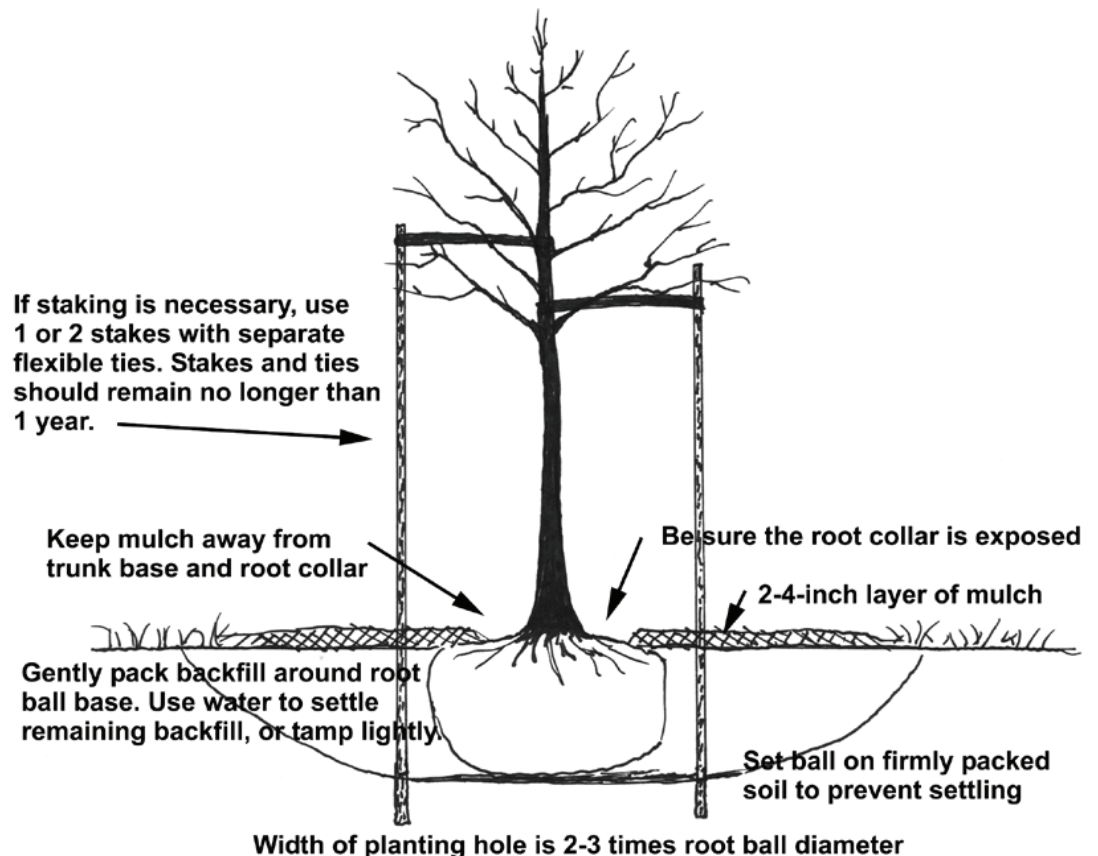


# How to Plant a Tree

1. Dig a hole that is two to three times as wide as the root spread, container diameter. The hole should be no deeper than the depth of soil in the container. The hole should be shallow enough that the root collar of the tree will be exposed when planted.
2. Break up any compacted soil on the sides of the planting space and make sure the bottom of the hole is firm to prevent settling.
3. Remove all string or wiring from container grown trees. Remove the container from container grown trees and shake off any excess soil.
4. Prune any dead, diseased, broken, or circled roots on container grown trees.
5. Place the tree upright in the hole (mechanical equipment may be needed for large trees). Make sure roots of bare root trees are relatively straight and spread out. Straighten the tree in the hole and check that the root collar is visible at soil level.
6. Gently pack backfill soil around base of root ball. Allow rest of backfill to settle naturally, use water to settle, or tamp lightly. Continue to fill the planting hole with soil up to the tree base.
7. Install tree stakes. Use one or two stakes with separate flexible ties and remove after 1 year. Stakes should be extended into undisturbed soil.
8. Apply a 2- to 4-inch layer of mulch over the entire rooting area, leaving a 3-inch circle of bare soil around the trunk.
9. Water the tree thoroughly.



Sources: Buckstrup and Bassuk (2003), DOD (1996), Flott (2004), Greenfeld and others (1991), Haefner and others (2002), NVRC (1997), Palone and Todd (1998), Trowbridge and Bassuk (2004), WSAHGP (2002)

