

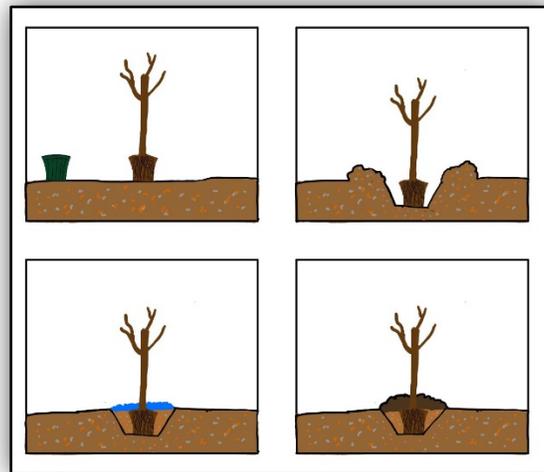
Tree Planting Instructions

When to Plant

In Ohio, April through mid-June and late October to mid-December are the most common planting times for new trees.

Planting Instructions

1. Before digging your hole, follow the “*Right Plant, Right Place*” motto. Make sure the planting location has the right conditions for the tree. This includes soil properties, moisture levels, and amount of the sunlight the area receives throughout the day.
2. Dig a hole three to four times wider than the container. The sides of your hole should have a *slight* slope going towards the bottom. This will allow for proper root growth.
3. Carefully remove the tree from the container, ensuring that the soil remains intact around the root ball. Tapping on the outside of the container helps loosen the root ball from the container. Then carefully slide the tree from the container.
4. Containerized trees sometimes can become root bound. A root bound tree has many of its roots on the outer edge of the root ball. If the tree is like this, cut an X across the bottom of the root ball and four vertical slices along the sides with a soil knife or pruning tool.
5. Set the tree in the middle of the hole. Ensure that the root flare (where the trunk transitions into roots) is slightly above ground level. If not, add more soil under the tree until it is above ground level. Next, use some soil to secure the tree in a straight position. Then fill and *slightly* pack the rest of the hole with the original soil. Create a rim of soil approximately eight – ten inches away from the trunk. Thoroughly water the soil around the tree, making sure to soak the entire root system. This watering helps eliminate any air pockets in the soil. Lastly add one to two inches of mulch around the tree, keeping it away from the trunk of the tree.



First Year Tree Care

Watering

Your newly planted tree will spend lots of its energy trying to establish its roots in the soil. By proper watering, you can help this process. Your tree should receive a deep watering as needed during the first growing season to keep the root system moist but not sitting in water. After that, one inch of rain or irrigation a week keeps it in excellent health.

Mulching

Mulching will your new tree to retain moisture and prevent weeds from growing. Do not over-mulch around the base of the tree as this encourages fibrous root growth that could lead to girdling the trunk. This may also increase the potential for pest problems.