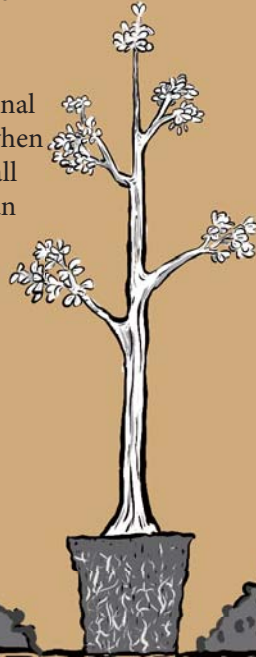


Tree Planting Guidelines

The best time to plant a tree is in the late fall and winter when leaf, branch, flower, and fruit production is dormant. Winter is the season for root growth, which is important for the long term health for any tree. It's understandable that trees will get planted year round, so follow these steps to minimize transplant stress.

- Call 811 or visit Texas811.org before digging! No charge to mark utility wires and pipes.
- Dig a hole no deeper than the depth of the original root ball to prevent crushed and broken roots when the container soil begins to decompose. Root ball height is normally two to three inches lower than the container. Check our website for container dimensions.
- Dig or till the native soil a radius of three times the root ball width. This will assist new roots growing outward in the next several months.



- You should add fertile compost to the native soil, but add no more than 15% of the original volume and mix thoroughly to avoid chemically burning the tree.
- Remove the container carefully so not to damage the root ball of the tree. If necessary, perform some root pruning to encourage the tree to quickly grow new feeder roots.
- Gently fill the hole around the tree. Thoroughly water in the new soil -- never compress it with machinery or by foot.

- Stake any tree that is five times taller than the root ball is wide. Wind will push the trunk in different directions repeatedly, creating a hole around the trunk that can let in excessive moisture and promote rot. The original root ball will also repeatedly shift in the ground, breaking all new root growth as it moves into the native soil. Use the appropriate tree staking equipment to avoid damaging the tree trunk and original tree roots. Do not stake too rigid, as some sway allows tree to develop rigidity.
- Cover the original rootball and backfill with at least two inches of mulch in a three foot radius. Form it in a funnel shape in such a way that the mulch does NOT touch the trunk
- Your tree was watered regularly in the nursery, and the amount of water is dependent on the season. Ask the grower how often it is watered at time of purchase, and accommodate a similar schedule. Water over the original root ball. Water slowly with soaker hose, drip irrigation, or gater bags to ensure water reaches bottom of the rootball
- When establishing the irrigation system, the largest concentration of roots will always remain as wide as the tree canopy, which for most trees means it's ever expanding -- adjust your irrigation system accordingly to enjoy your tree for years.

