

Tree Planting Instructions – Container Tree

1. **Dig a WIDE and Shallow hole.** If an auger was used to drill the hole, use a shovel to widen the entire hole (this will correct the soil scarring created from the auger). If an auger was used, the hole is probably too deep. Fill in the hole to the proper depth. The tree should be sitting on a compact surface.
2. **Hole width:** the hole should be 3 times the diameter of the root ball.
3. You don't want to plant the tree too deep or too shallow.
4. **Hole Depth: FIND THE ROOT COLLAR.** You may have to remove a few inches of soil to get to the root collar. When the tree is placed in the hole, the root flare should be 2 inches above grade level.
5. **Shave the rootball.** Remove 1-2 inches of the outside of the rootball.
6. **Backfill** with the same soil that came out of the hole. Keep the soil off of the top of the root ball. (You don't want to re-bury the root collar you just dug out). If you are using any amendments, mix them into the top few inches of the hole to try to re-create a natural soil profile.
7. Gently tamp the soil around the root ball to keep the tree from falling over and remove air pockets.
8. **Mulch** up to the root ball. Keep mulch off of the top of the root ball. *Mulch should never touch the trunk of a tree.*
9. **Mulch:** create a berm and a layer of mulch 4 inches deep. If possible, extend the mulch ring to the edge of the drip line (the edge of the branches). Create a mulch ring wide enough to protect the trunk from mowers and weed eaters.
10. **Water**

