



TAKING ROOT

Community Action Toolkit

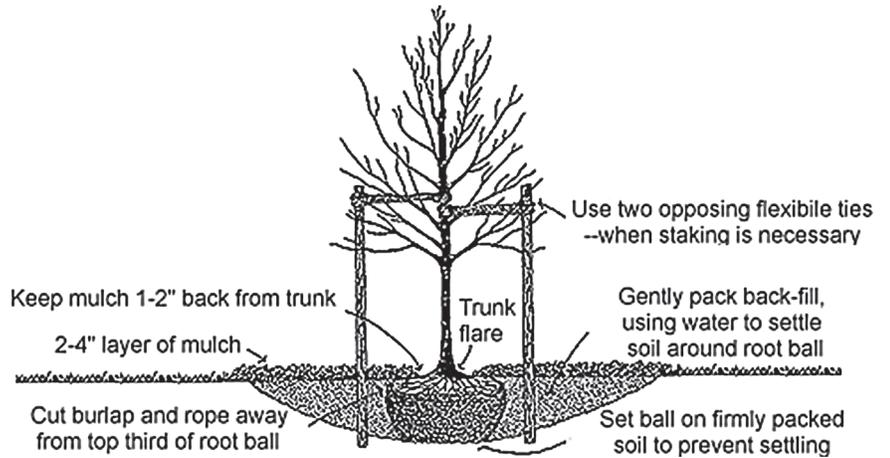
SHEET 3 - GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS

HOW TO PLANT A TREE

These planting techniques will help your tree to live a long and happy life

Planting Balled and Burlapped Trees

1. If not readily apparent, locate trunk flare by removing twine, burlap, and excess soil.
2. Dig tree hole at least two times wider than the root ball, with sides sloped to an unexcavated or firm base. Dig hole to a depth so the located trunk flare, at the first order lateral root, will be at finished grade.
3. Lifting only from the bottom of the root ball, position tree on firm pad so that it is straight and top of trunk flare is level with the surrounding soil.
4. Remove all twine from the root ball. If present, remove and discard at least the top one half of the wire basket. Burlap shall be removed from the top to a point halfway down the root ball and discarded. Ideally, all burlap and wire basket should be removed from the root ball.
5. With clean, sharp pruning tools, prune off any secondary/adventitious, girdling, and potential girdling roots.
6. Backfill planting hole with existing unamended soil, and thoroughly water.
7. Mulch the entire planting surface with composted bark applied no less than two inches (2") deep and no more than three inches (3") deep, leaving three inches (3") adjacent to the tree trunk free of mulch.



Planting Containerized or Grow Bag Trees

1. If not readily apparent, locate trunk flare by removing excess soil.
2. Dig tree hole at least two times wider than the root ball with sloping sides. Dig hole to a depth so the located trunk flare, at the first order lateral root, will be at finished grade.
3. Create a firm soil mound at the bottom of the planting hole.
4. Remove tree from container or grow bag and select from option a or b:
 - a. Completely tease apart root system, repositioning any girdling roots (roots that circle the root ball) or potentially girdling roots. Spread roots over soil mound so that trunk flare is at finished grade and the tree is straight.
 - b. With a sharp saw, shave off the entire outer 1 inch (1") of the root ball. Place in planting hole so that trunk flare is at finished grade and the tree is straight.
5. Follow steps 5, 6, and 7 above.

Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry
<http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/urban/education/post/sample-tree-planting-specifications>

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

-CHINESE PROVERB

