

Potted Tree Planting Instructions

Always study your site to know what kind of tree to plant. Pay attention to light conditions and the tree's mature height and width.

1. Call 1-800-DIG-RITE in advance to have your utility lines marked.
2. Dig a hole deep enough to have the top of the root ball at ground level or just above. "Plant it high – never die. Plant it low – never grow." No need to loosen soil under the root ball. Dig the hole twice as wide as the root ball of the tree; or at least wide enough to allow easy working space for your hands.
3. If your soil is subpar, mix compost into the dirt you took out of the hole. The ideal ratio is about 1/3 compost to your existing soil.
4. Remove your tree from its pot and tease the roots apart if the tree is rootbound. Cut any long roots that are too lengthy to be laid horizontal.
5. Gently position your tree into its hole.
6. Backfill with soil. If working in a recently disturbed area, use **Myke Tree & Shrub Transplanter** in the top 6-8" of backfill soil.
7. Water the tree with diluted **Fertilome Root Stimulator**. When you water, water thoroughly and deeply. You want the tree's roots to dig deep not search for water at the surface.
8. If mulching, apply a 3" layer of mulch around your tree. This will discourage grass/weed growth around your tree as well as conserve moisture. Do not pile the mulch up around the tree trunk. Aim for a doughnut shape not a volcano.
9. Stake your tree with 1-2 stakes if needed.
10. Water your tree as needed. Generally, water your tree every 3 or so days for the first couple weeks. Taper off after that. But use common sense! Tree roots need air just as much as they need water. Thoroughly water once every couple of weeks when in a hot, drought condition.
11. Use **Fertilome Root Stimulator** every 10-14 days for at least 3 applications.
12. Wrap the tree trunk in the winter only to help prevent the trunk from forming splits in the bark caused by freeze/thaw cycle of sap (Winter Sun Scald). Remove wrap in spring.
13. After the first year, fertilize every November with **Fertilome Tree & Shrub Food**.
14. Remove stakes after 12-18 months.

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