



Tree Planting & Maintenance

Abbreviated.

Full video recording links:

[Tree Planting & Maintenance part 1](#)

[Tree Planting & Maintenance part 2](#)

[Tree Planting & Maintenance part 3](#)

Brought to you by the NJ Tree Foundation

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Move the trees to their planting locations



Make sure
the trunk is
always
protected.



Measure the depth of
the root ball

Make sure your hole
depth and root ball
depth are the same

Measure the root ball from **below the flare (root collar)** to the bottom of the ball. Measure the hole. Measure Again.

Length of Root Ball
=
Depth of planting hole

Bottom of root ball

Trunk Flare





**Use two
shovels to get
correct depth**



Top of rootball

Root Flare



**Make the tree
pit as wide as
possible.**

Clip off the bottom of the basket



Clip up once & mark where you clipped





**Ease the tree
into the hole.**



Make sure the tree is straight, centered, and stabilized in the pit.

Remove the rest of the basket – usually one clip



Remove the twine...





**Remove
the
burlap**

Naked Rootball

Correct Depth – The flare is above the sidewalk/lawn!



Fill in with soil. STOMP down the soil to remove air pockets.





What's next?

MULCH!

Mulch like a doughnut.
Mulch out not up.
Mulch wide not high.

Why do we mulch?

Regulates soil temperature
Reduces weeds
Regulates soil moisture
Adds nutrients
Mimics the forest floor



Water

- **Trees that are harvested from the nursery lose $\frac{3}{4}$ of their roots and become less efficient at taking up water.**
- **Browning, wilting, scorch, and dieback after very hot or cold weather are usually caused by lack of available water.**
- **Don't over-water!**



Water

- **Water 20 gallons/week for two years after planting**
- **Spring, summer, & fall**
- **Water deeply**
 - **Hose**
 - **Fill mulch ‘donut’**
 - **Tree gator**
 - **Bucket**
 - **Gallon/2 Liter bottles**



Weed

- **Grass and weeds compete for the same water and nutrients as the tree.**
- **Remove any grass or weeds growing in the tree bed.**
- **Pull out by hand.**
- **Newspaper &**



Protect

- **Don't nail/staple stuff to your tree.**
- **Remove holiday lights before spring.**
- **Do not allow ornaments or bird houses to cut the trunk or girdle the tree.**
- **Keep lawn mowers and string trimmers away from tree to avoid wounding trunk.**
- **Keep winter **salt** out of your tree bed. Use sand.**