

## TREE PLANTING & CARE GUIDE

### **Planting Your Tree**

1. Amend the soil
  - a. Tilling existing soil will make it easier to dig your holes and allow for better aeration around the root system after your shrub has been planted.
  - b. Mix in compost, enhanced topsoil, soil conditioner, or potting soil for extra nutrients.
2. Place trees (still in pots) in the bed or yard and arrange them how you would like them to be displayed after planting
  - a. Remember to call Diggers Hotline before you dig holes in your yard  
<https://www.diggershotline.com/>    [\(800\) 242-8511](tel:8002428511)
3. Dig a hole about as deep as the pot, and triple the size of the pot's width
4. Break up the root system with a shovel or pruner to encourage the roots to grow out and down, not in a circle.
  - a. It is important not to bury it too deep or too tightly; be gentle while packing the soil around the plant.
  - b. Make sure all roots are covered with soil.
5. Cover the base with a layer of mulch to encourage water retention.
6. Water in the tree(s).
7. Sometimes staking a tree is necessary. However, stakes should only be left on for about one year.
8. Save the tag from each plant and keep a notebook where you write down exactly where you planted it, the year, and any other information you want to remember. This makes a great plant record for your home.

### **Watering Guidelines**

1. Only water the base of the plants; water as close to the soil/root system as possible.
2. Water every day (depending on plant variety and weather conditions). Give each plant extra water during the hottest days of the season.
3. You can hand-water with a hose, however, with trees, it is more efficient to purchase a soaker hose and run it for 20-30 minutes a day (tree size, quantity, and weather depending); you can also purchase a tree watering bag to fill at the base of the tree.

### **Winter Preparation**

1. It is best to plant trees before the end of November.
2. Applying a tree guard around the trunk of the tree in November is beneficial. Remember to remove the guard in April/midspring.

### **Planting Assistance & Maintenance**

If you have concerns about being able to plant your trees effectively, please let us know. We have a trained crew who can help you plant the tree(s), and we also offer yearly maintenance plans to keep fruit trees trimmed for optimal performance

