

HOPE VALLEY TREE FARM

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Planting Guide

1. Choose a location for your tree that gives it adequate room and sunlight.
2. Measure the root ball of your tree and dig a hole that is the same depth as the root ball and is 4 to 6 inches wider than the root ball all the way around.
3. Carefully observe the soil you remove from the hole to determine what kind it is - clay, rock, loam, sand. This will be important when it comes to watering. Pay attention to the moisture content of the soil – is it wetter the deeper you go, or is it drier the deeper you go?
4. Remove tree from container and examine roots. If there are circling roots, cut them at three places around the root ball with a knife or hand pruner. Do not cut into the root ball more than one inch deep.
5. Carefully place tree in the center of the hole. **The base of the tree MUST be level or at the most, 1"-2" higher than the existing ground.**
6. Adjust tree so that it stands straight. Remove any large rocks from the fill dirt and add a little compost* (optional), then fill in the hole, packing firmly as you go. You can also add a slow release fertilizer into the fill dirt, but be careful not to overdo it.
7. **DO NOT** place dirt on top of the root ball or around the trunk of the tree. The top of the root ball should be showing just as it did when it was in the bucket. Place excess dirt around the edge of the filled hole, creating a berm or mound that will retain water when you water your tree.
8. Stake tree if needed. If your tree is top heavy it will need to be staked. We use three 6' "T" posts driven into solid ground 4 – 6 inches away from the filled tree hole. Drive the "T" post at a slight angle away from the tree. Use soft but strong strapping material to tie the tree securely to the "T" posts.

DO NOT place the strap in the fork of the tree. The tree can grow around it.

DO NOT place the strap too tight around the trunk of the tree.

When finished make sure the tree is still straight and adjust straps as needed.

Check strapping periodically and adjust as needed.

Remove staking after about a year.

9. You can mulch the berm or mound around the tree but **DO NOT** put mulch against the trunk of the tree.
10. When watering a newly planted tree, be sure to soak it sufficiently so that the water makes it all the way down into the root ball.
11. Water newly planted trees as needed.
(See *Hope Valley Tree Farm's Watering Guide*).

"T" Post →

