



BEFORE YOU PLANT

- Plant during California's prime tree planting season, October to March
- Consider species selection, placement, and site conditions
- Consult Canopy Tree Library and/or Canopy Arborist List to help you select the right tree for the right place www.canopy.org
- Call USA North: 811 or 800-227-2600 before you dig to locate utilities
- Gather all the tools and materials you will need:



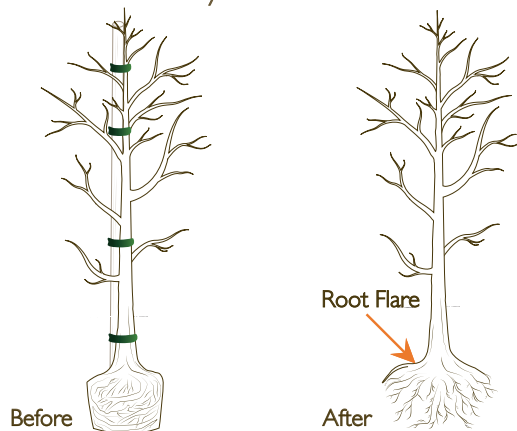
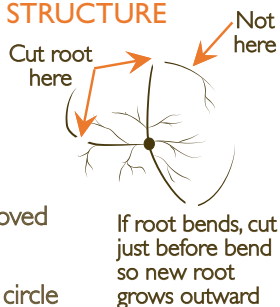
When we plant trees,
we plant the seeds of peace
and the seeds of hope.
- Wangari Maathai,
Nobel Peace Laureate



1 PREPARE THE TREE

FOR QUICK ESTABLISHMENT AND STRONG ROOT STRUCTURE

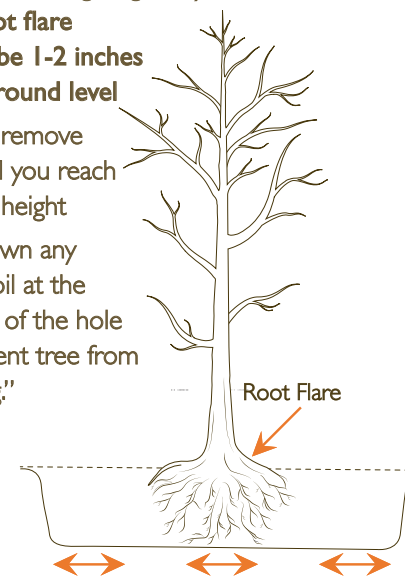
- Remove tree from container
- Expose **root flare** if covered by soil
- Loosen roots with gloved hands or root pick
- Prune any roots that circle around the root ball. Roots should extend straight out.
- Cut green ties, remove nursery stake, and refill hole left by the stake with loose soil



2 PREPARE THE PLANTING SITE

TO ENSURE PROPER PLANTING HEIGHT AND GIVE ROOTS ROOM TO SPREAD

- Dig a hole 3 times as wide, but only as deep, as the loosened and trimmed root ball
- Place removed soil on tarp and mix with soil left over from container
- Roughen the sides of the hole with a shovel
- Place tree in center of hole (near bubblers if you are installing irrigation).
- **The root flare should be 1-2 inches above ground level**
- Add or remove soil until you reach desired height
- Pack down any loose soil at the bottom of the hole to prevent tree from "settling."



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CANOPY

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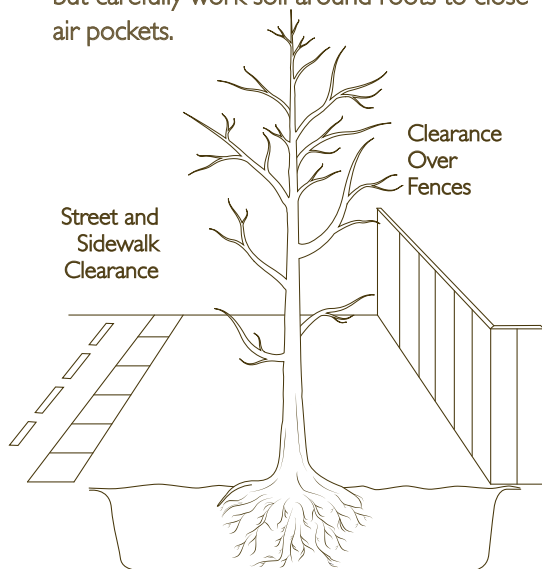


Urban and Community Forestry

3 PLANT THE TREE

TO SETTLE TREE AND ROOTS INTO THEIR NEW HOME

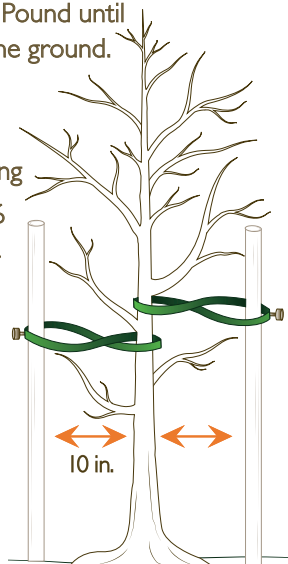
- Position tree to minimize branch conflict with streets, sidewalks, structures, and planned location of support stakes
- Hold tree in center of hole and spread out roots
- Slowly add soil back into the hole and firmly but carefully work soil around roots to close air pockets.



4 STAKE AND STRAP THE TREE

TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT THE TREE AS IT DEVELOPS ITS OWN STRENGTH

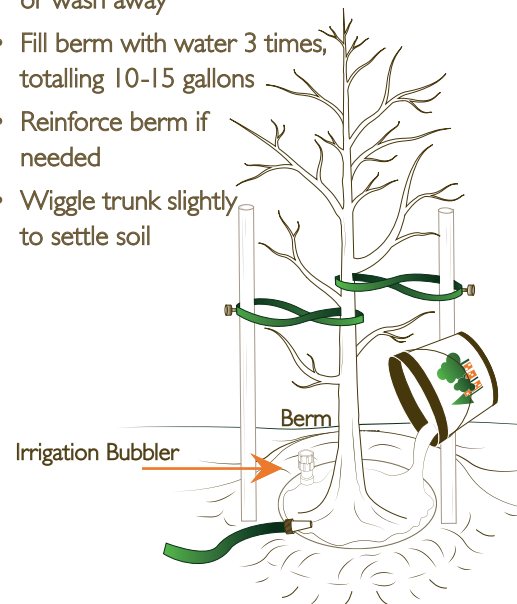
- Install stakes about 10 inches away from trunk
- **Wear a hardhat whenever you or someone near you uses a stake pounder.**
- Pound in the stake, checking angle to ensure stake goes in straight. Pound until the stake is firmly in the ground.
- Repeat with 2nd stake
- Pre-stretch straps to prevent future loosening
- Position each strap 4-6 feet from ground for a typical 15-gallon tree
- Loop strap around trunk and make a figure 8. Slide one end of the strap into/over the other until strap is tight (no slack).
- Drive a nail through overlapping strap ends into the stake, but leave nail slightly protruding. Repeat entire process with 2nd strap and 2nd stake.



5 BUILD A BERM AND WATER THE TREE

TO GET WATER TO THE ROOTS

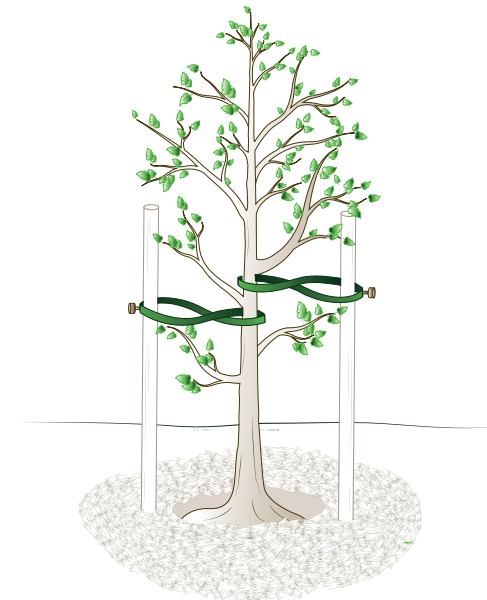
- Use excess soil to build a mound or **berm** around the outside edge of the root ball to create a watering basin. This will help direct water to the roots.
- If irrigation bubbler is installed, make sure it is within berm
- Pack down edges of berm so it doesn't leak or wash away
- Fill berm with water 3 times, totalling 10-15 gallons
- Reinforce berm if needed
- Wiggle trunk slightly to settle soil



6 ADD MULCH

TO PROTECT AND FEED THE ROOTS

- Cover the soil 4-6 feet around tree base with 4 inches of mulch to retain moisture, suppress weeds, and improve soil composition
- Keep mulch 2-3 inches away from trunk and root flare to prevent decay



YOUR TREE IS NOW PLANTED!
Refer to canopy.org for young tree care tips

CANOPY HOW TO PLANT A TREE

