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
- Call USA North: 811 or 800-227-2600 before you dig to locate utilities
- Gather all the tools and materials you will need:
  - Gloves
  - Shovels
  - Sharp Pruners
  - Stake Pounder
  - 2 or 3 Stakes
  - 2 Buckets of Mulch

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

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.”

When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and the seeds of hope.
- Wangari Maathai,
  Nobel Peace Laureate
**TO PLANT THE TREE**

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

**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.**
- **Place the stake so it 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.**

**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 totaling 10-15 gallons.**
- **Reinforce berm if needed.**
- **Wiggle trunk slightly to settle soil.**

**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.