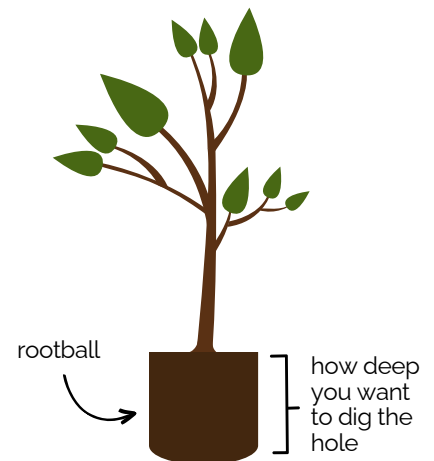


How to Plant a Tree

Step 1: Dig a hole as deep and twice as wide as the root ball of the tree. The root ball is the main mass of roots located right under the main trunk of the tree, beginning at the root flare. A helpful tip is to measure the size of the root ball with your shovel and then use that to measure the size of the hole. We recommend taking off the top layer of grass first and then digging the hole. The hole should be bowl shaped, not smooth and cylindrical.



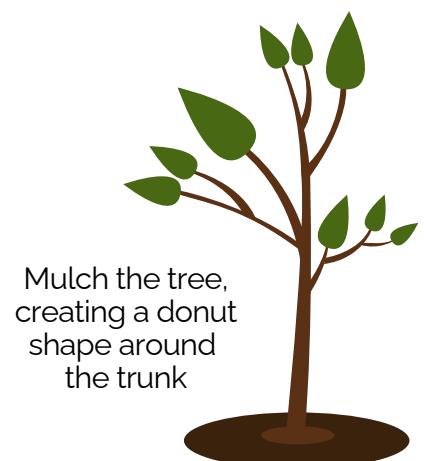
Step 2: Once the hole has been dug, place the tree into the ground. Cut off the bag around the roots before planting, loosely break up the soil, and remove any crossing roots. Make sure the root flare is just top of ground level to make sure the tree is not planted too deep. The root flare is where the first main roots attach to the trunk of the tree. If a tree is planted too deep, it can increase susceptibility to fungal, insect infestations, and girdling roots.



Step 3: Once the tree is in the ground, back-fill the hole with dirt to make sure the tree is stable and standing straight. Always check your tree from both sides to make sure that it's not leaning one way or another.

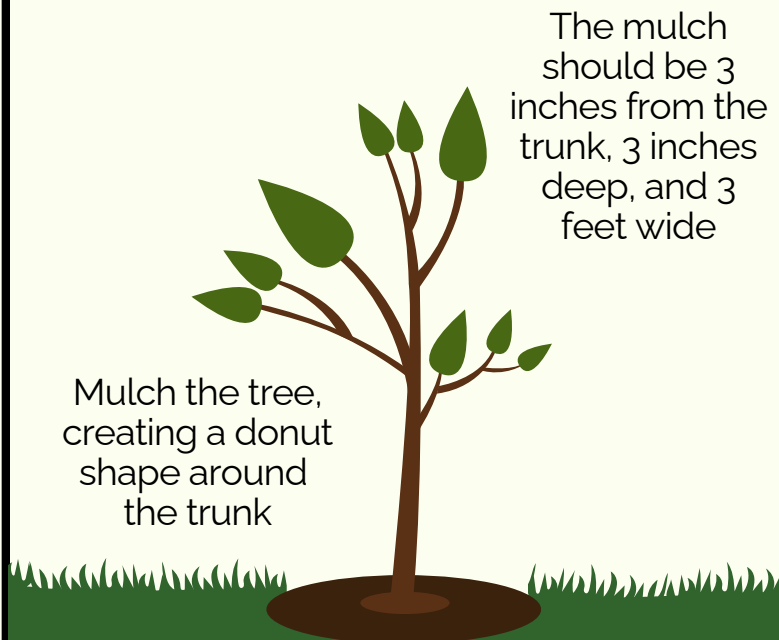
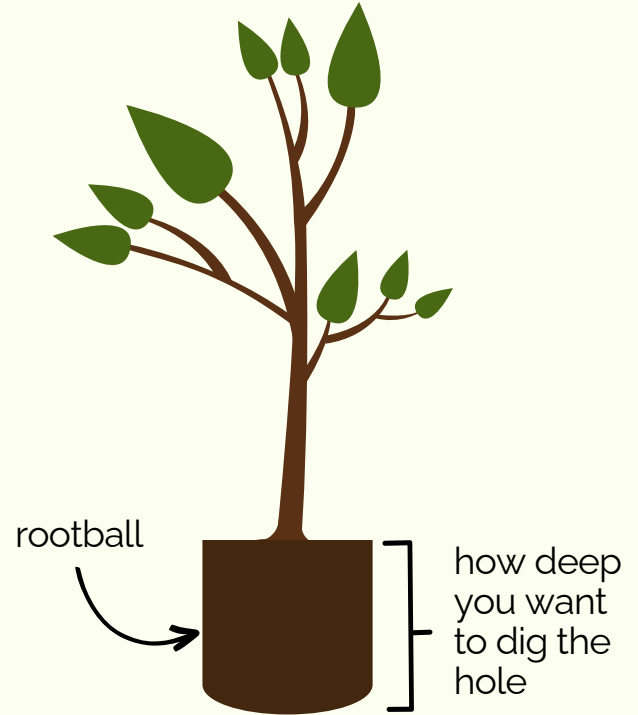
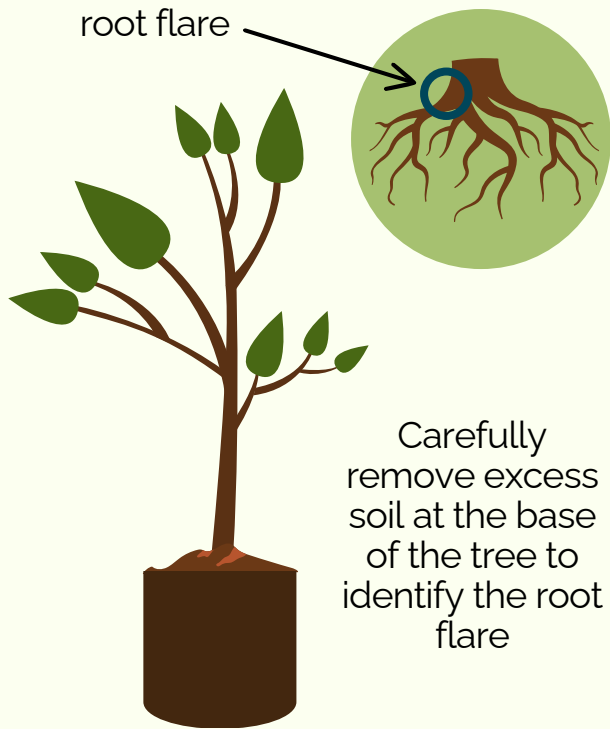
Step 4: Mulch should be placed 3 inches from the base of the tree, 3 inches deep, and 3 feet wide to create a donut shape. Mulch insulates and regulates temperature for the soil containing the roots, helps retain water and provide nutrients, reduces weed growth, and prevents soil compaction and damage from mowers and foot traffic. Be sure not to pack the mulch down.

Step 5: Place a tree guard around the trunk to protect from deer and rabbit damage. If needed, reduce the height by cutting it with pruners so it does not conflict with any branches. The tree guard can be secured with zip ties at the top, middle, and bottom.



Step 6: Place a water gator around the tree trunk. The tag should be at the top, facing out.

How to Correctly Plant a Tree with CanopyBloomington



CanopyBloomington

CULTIVATING A COMMUNITY-POWERED URBAN FOREST