

Phelan Gardens Tree & Shrub Planting Guide

1. **Call 811 to locate any underground cables.**
2. **Dig** a saucer-shaped hole at least 3x the width of the root ball but absolutely no deeper. **Amend** native soil to a maximum ratio of 1:4 compost:native soil, apply Root Rally and Azomite as directed.
3. **Remove all circling or girdling roots.** Circling roots (Fig. 1) **must** be removed before planting. You can remove up to 1 ½" from the root ball's surface or 25% of the total root mass without detriment to the tree (Fig. 2). Remove all mulch and loose soil from the top of the root ball. Check for roots that cross the trunk (girdling roots). These must also be removed. **Trees cannot outgrow circling/girdling roots; girdling roots account for the majority of mature landscape tree decline.**
4. Place the tree so that the top of the root ball is at or slightly above (2" max) the grade level (Fig. 3). You should be able to see the top of the root ball after planting.
5. **Mulch** a 3' radius around the tree 3-4" deep. Mulch should not contact the trunk. Leaves and wood chips both make excellent mulch.
6. **Water** Thoroughly. Your watering schedule is influenced by soil type, weather, exposure, and other factors. Newly transplanted trees require very regular watering but should never be in standing water or soggy soils for long periods of time. Recommended watering rate for trees is 10 gallons per inch of trunk diameter. Shrubs in a five gallon pot should receive approximately 5 gallons per drink, depending on moisture level. Observe the rootball's moisture level (with your finger!) daily for at least the first two weeks. **Monthly winter watering (Oct-March) is critical to your plant's survival!**
7. **Observe** your tree carefully throughout the first year of establishment and call Phelan Gardens at (719) 574-8058 with any questions or concerns as soon as you notice them.



*"The moment you plant a tree
you determine its fate"*



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

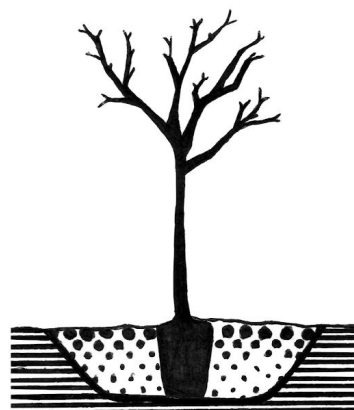


Fig. 3

Further Reading:

Colorado Master Gardener Tree Planting Steps: cmg.extension.colostate.edu/Gardennotes/636.pdf

Colorado Master Gardener: The Science of Planting Trees: cmg.extension.colostate.edu/Gardennotes/633.pdf