

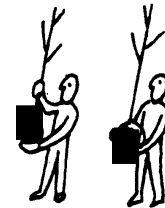


Project CommuniTree Planting Instructions

Now that you have received your trees, there are a number of things you can do to increase their long-term health and survival. The following is a list of points to keep in mind when transporting, planting and maintaining your trees.

Transporting

- ❑ Always cover trees when transporting them to prevent windburn and leaf loss.
- ❑ Never carry or grab the trees by the trunk, as this damages the root system. Always carry trees by holding the container.
- ❑ Do not leave the trees covered in a vehicle for long periods of time.
- ❑ Keep roots moist until planting. If the container soil dries out, the trees will die.



Planting

- ❑ Look around your planting site. Do not plant under utility lines or near structures that will interfere with the growth of the tree. Prior to digging, call 1-800-DIG-RITE (1-800-344-7483) in Missouri or J.U.L.I.E. in Illinois at 1-800-892-0123 to find the location of underground utilities.
- ❑ The width of the hole should be at least twice the size of the container; this provides a good environment for root growth (see graphic below). Dig a hole only as deep as the container. DO NOT plant the tree deeper than it is growing in the container.
- ❑ Remove tree from the container, cutting any roots that are circling inside the pot.
- ❑ Use the same soil you dug out of the hole to backfill the tree, and never stomp or tamp the soil tightly into the hole.

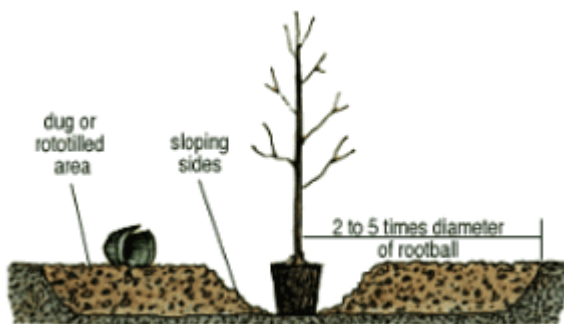


Illustration by the National Arbor Day Foundation

- ❑ The trees **MUST** be watered when planted. If water is not accessible, you may need to reconsider your planting project. Water is the single most important factor to prevent transplant shock. A long soaking with a hose is better than a quick drenching.

Fertilization

- ❑ Fertilization should be avoided the first few seasons as it could further stress the tree.

Mulching

- ❑ Mulch all trees after planting. Mulching reduces competition with weeds and grass, retains soil moisture, and discourages lawn mower and weed trimmer damage on the trunk.
- ❑ Use organic mulch such as wood chips or leaf compost because as they decompose, they add nutrients back into the soil, while also allowing for a maximum of water and gas exchange. You can request free wood chips from Forest ReLeaf for mulching your project.
- ❑ Spread mulch in a ring at least the size of the hole that was dug, 2 to 5 times the size of the container.
- ❑ NEVER put down more than 3” of mulch. Depths greater than 3” can do more harm than good.
- ❑ DO NOT pile mulch against the trunk of the tree. Lay it in a ‘doughnut’ shape, with the trunk growing through the hole in the middle.

Pruning

- ❑ Prune only dead or broken branches for the first season. Additional pruning could cause more stress to the newly planted tree.

Staking

- ❑ Stake trees only when necessary. Be sure to remove all staking after one year to insure proper growth.

Long-Term Maintenance

- ❑ Visit your planting regularly to check on watering and maintenance needs. Set up a schedule of inspections for watering, weeding, mulching, and pruning and to check for insect and disease problems.

A representative of Forest ReLeaf will visit your planting project at some point during its first season. The purpose of this visit is to inspect the quality of the planting and to insure that you have established a maintenance plan for the trees. Our goal at Forest ReLeaf is to maximize the benefits of these trees to the community, and the first and most important step in accomplishing this is proper planting and early maintenance.

If you have additional questions about planting or maintaining the trees you received from Forest ReLeaf, please contact us:

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