

Applying mulch

- Apply mulch so it covers the sides of the root ball. Be sure that when you are finished planting, there is no mulch or just a thin layer (1-2 inches deep) of mulch over the top of the root ball.
- DO NOT pile mulch against the tree trunk.

Watering after planting

- Irrigate daily for 1 week, then irrigate every two days for 4-6 weeks. Continue once a week watering for 1-2 years.
- Apply 3 gallons per inch of trunk diameter to the root ball each time you irrigate. Apply the water so that it soaks into the root ball.



Enjoy your tree!

If you have other questions, please contact

Carrie Stevenson

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Agent
ctsteven@ufl.edu

Beth Bolles

Horticulture Agent
bbolles@ufl.edu

Escambia County Extension

850-475-5230

Jimmie Jarratt

Urban Forester
Escambia County
Neighborhood & Environmental
Services Department
Jimmie_jarratt@co.escambia.fl.us
850-595-3535

Or visit these websites:

http://escambia.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN_Index.htm

www.floridayards.org



Planting Trees

More than digging a hole!

A Guide for Homeowners



Why plant trees?

Your new tree will provide many benefits to your home. Trees not only provide wildlife habitat and add beauty and grace to your home, but they also improve air quality by producing oxygen and removing carbon dioxide. Trees help control stormwater runoff, moderate temperatures, buffer wind, and reduce energy use. Trees positively affect property values and provide privacy.

How to plant your tree

Successful tree planting does not happen by chance--it requires thought, planning, and attention to detail. Read these steps prior to and while planting your new tree. For more detailed information visit: <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/index.htm>.



Before you start

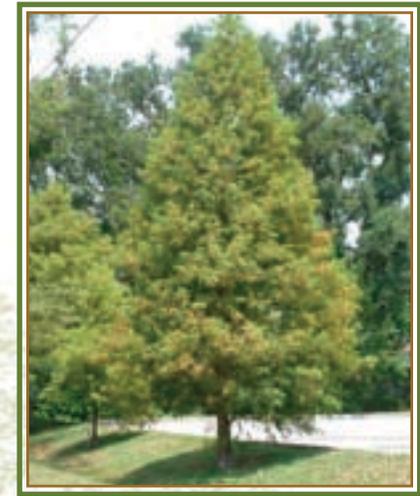
Select a planting site. Look up and around. If there is a power line, security light, sidewalk, driveway, or building nearby that could interfere with proper development of the tree canopy and root system as it grows, plant elsewhere. Keep in mind that the root system will stretch out 2-3 times as far as the branch canopy!

Digging the hole

- Measure the root ball. Dig the hole this deep or slightly shallower than this depth. *Important: Do not dig the hole deeper than the root ball.*
- Dig the hole at least 3-5 times the width of the root ball.
- Loosen the soil in the hole with a shovel, or another tool.

Placing the tree in the hole

- Remove all synthetic materials from around the trunk and root ball. String, rope, synthetic burlap, strapping, plastic, and other materials that will not decompose in the soil must be removed at planting.
- Position the root ball in the hole shallow enough so the topmost root flare is at the same level as the landscape soil. You may need to scrape away soil from the top of the root ball to find this level.
- Cut any roots that circle the top of the root ball.
- Straighten the tree in the hole. View the tree from two directions perpendicular to each other to confirm the tree is straight. Fill in with more backfill soil to secure the tree in the upright position.



Filling in the hole

- Backfill hole with remaining soil and landscape soil to a level slightly lower than the top of the root ball. Attempt to break up any soil clumps as much as possible. *Note: The top 1 to 2 inches of the root ball will be above grade.*
- DO NOT step firmly on the backfill soil because this could compact it and restrict root growth. Instead, water the soil to allow backfill to settle and add soil as necessary.

