

HOW TO PLANT AND CARE FOR YOUR TREES

SITE LOCATION

-Research your tree and learn it's preferences. In general, most trees prefer full sun and well drained soil. Where you plant will have a large impact on tree health and maintenance. **Think longterm.**

-Trees should be planted at least 20 feet apart from one another and any buildings.

PREPARE YOUR SITE

-Remove about 24" in diameter of sod/vegetation from your site.
Use a spade or mattock.

-Dig a nice and large whole about 12" deep and 24" wide. You need plenty of room for the roots to spread out.

PLANTING YOUR TREE

-Center your tree in the hole and backfill with native soil. Add light compost **only if needed**. Place the soil up to but not over the root collar.

*Do not go overboard with enriching your tree's soil! It can be harmful.

*Do not fertilize your trees until the following season. (Year two.)

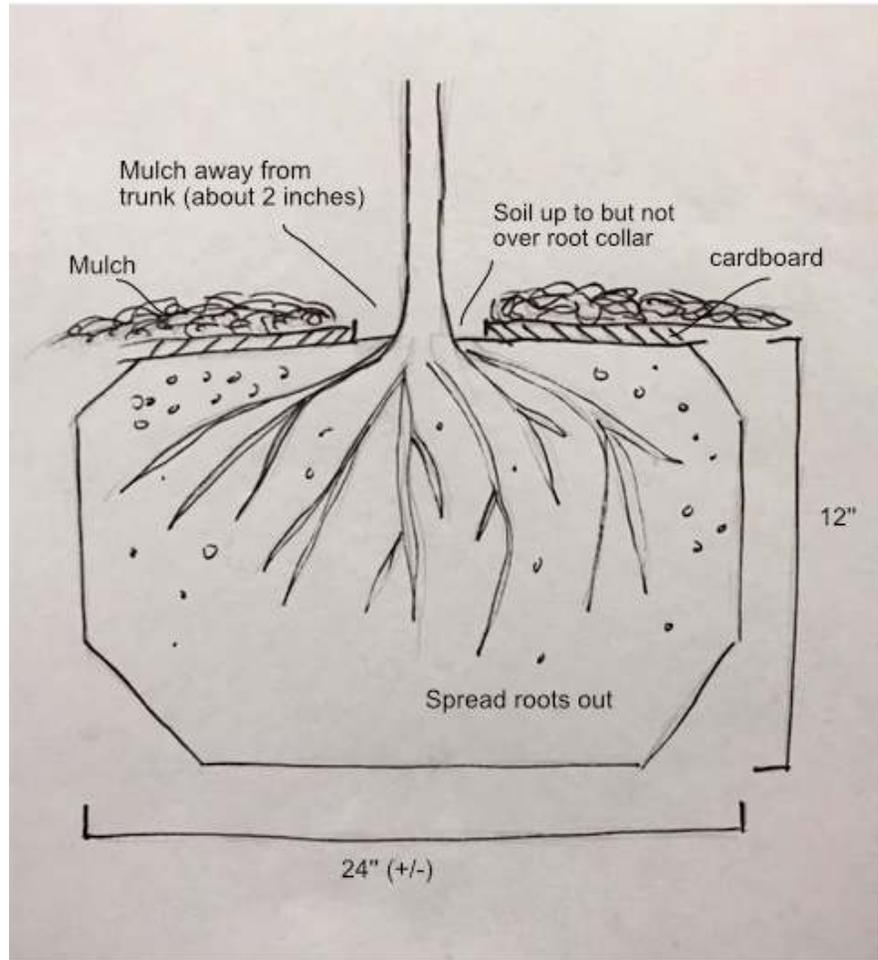
*Do not include grass, foreign roots, or plant matter in your Backfill.

-Compress backfilled soil only enough to hold tree up and imagine soil being sung around roots. Do not over compact soil.

-Use cardboard to keep weeds at bay—place about 2-4 feet around the tree.

-Add mulch, wood chips, or clean straw (not hay) on top of the cardboard. It should be seed-free and kept away from trunk (about 2 inches).

-Give your tree a nice long drink of water.



FIRST YEAR CARE

-Look up care for your specific trees.

-Most need **1 inch of water per week during warm weather.**

-Give a soak (3-4 gallons) with clean water when needed. Let the soil drain for at least four days before re-watering.

-Watch the weather: if a storm does not bring more than .5 inches, consider it not enough and water.

-Keep the base of your tree weed free

-Turf or grass must be removed and kept away from the tree for 4-5 years.

PROTECTION

-Deer are your major concern in protecting trees. If you want your tree to thrive, you must protect it for at least four years.

-Feeding and scraping behaviors can ruin tree's health overnight.

-Proper tree caging can bring survival near 100%.

-Tree tubes can help, but if you are planting only a couple trees, cages are worth it.

-Small mammals can chew bark and even girdle trees. Keeping mulch and weeds away from the tree will deny these critters the cover they want to hang out by your tree and gnaw.

