

### **Planting Trees Steps:**

5. With clean, sharp pruning tools, prune off any secondary/adventitious, girdling, and potential girdling roots. Trees in most cases should not be staked. If the planting location is frequently windy then it may be advised to stake.

6. Backfill planting hole with existing unamended soil, and thoroughly water.

7. After-planting apply 2-3 inches of composted wood chips over the planted tree (except leave trunk area bare). Newly planted trees should be watered deeply weekly with 10-20gal. of water for every inch of caliper. It is important to not over or under water newly planted trees.

If you have questions about how to plant a tree visit [trees4ohio.org](http://trees4ohio.org)



**[trees4ohio.org](http://trees4ohio.org)**

The Ohio Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (Ohio Chapter ISA) is the successor of the Ohio Chapter of the National Shade Tree Conference organized in 1942 and then the Ohio Chapter of the International Shade Tree Conference in 1961. In 1975, the Chapter became the Ohio Chapter International Society of Arboriculture. The Chapter is established in the state of Ohio as a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Our mission is to advance responsible tree care practices through research, technology and education; while promoting the benefits of trees.

The Ohio Chapter values investing in the future of professional arboriculture through education, research, safety and communication; while maintaining integrity and credibility. For more information on the Ohio Chapter ISA, visit [www.OhioChapterISA.org](http://www.OhioChapterISA.org).



Ohio Chapter International Society of Arboriculture  
PO Box 267, Baltimore, OH 43105  
Phone: (614) 771-7494

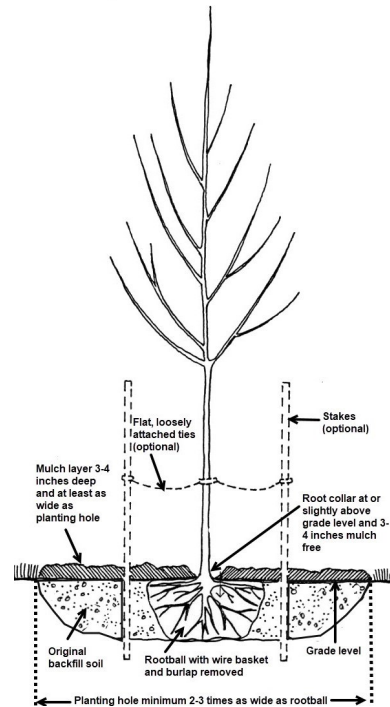
# OHIO TREE PLANTING GUIDE



**THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

EXTENSION

This information is approved and endorsed by the Ohio Chapter International Society of Arboriculture, the Ohio Green Industry Association, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry.



## THESE ARE THE KEY POINTS TO FOLLOW WHEN PLANTING A TREE:

- ◇ Right Tree-Right Place
- ◇ Buy Hardy, High-Quality trees
- ◇ Find the root flare before you dig the hole
- ◇ Dig the hole 2-3 times wider than the root system
- ◇ Place the tree in the center of the hole with the root flare positioned at the top
- ◇ Remove all burlap/ropes from the root ball
- ◇ Correct any bent or circular growing roots

### Right-Tree Right Place

Don't plant trees that will potentially conflict with underground utilities (water/sewer) or above ground electric utility wires. Contact the (OUPS) Ohio Utilities Protection Service before you dig. Call OHIO811.

### Tree Quality/Winter Hardiness

Select high-quality nursery stock that is zone hardy for the area you are installing trees.

### Finding the Root Flare

Often trees that are grown do not have a visible root-flare. The root flare where the first main roots attach to the trunk. (See below)



### Planting Tree Steps:

1. If not readily apparent, locate trunk flare by removing twine, burlap, and excess soil before digging the hole.
2. Dig the tree hole at least 2-3 times wider than the root ball, with sides sloped to an unexcavated or firm base. Dig hole to a depth so the located trunk flare, at the first order lateral root, will be at finished grade. Create a firm soil pad at the bottom of the planting hole.
3. Lifting only from the bottom of the root ball, position tree on firm soil pad so that it is straight and top of trunk flare is level with the surrounding soil.
4. Remove all twine from the root ball. If present, remove and discard at least the top one half of the wire basket. Burlap should be removed from the top to a point halfway down the root ball and discarded. Ideally, all burlap and wire basket should be removed from the root ball. If the tree is grown in a container or grow bag, then select from option a or b
  - A. Completely tease apart root system, repositioning any girdling or potentially girdling roots. Spread roots over soil mound so that trunk flare is at finished grade and the tree is straight.
  - B. With a sharp saw, shave off the entire outer 1 inch (1") of the root ball. Place in planting hole so that trunk flare is at finished grade and the tree is straight.

Continued