

# Planting and Caring for your Tree



## Planting

1. Remove the fabric pot either by undoing the velcro strip on the green handled reusable pots or tearing/cutting down the pots without velcro. If your tree is in a plastic pot, slide it out.
2. Inspect for circling roots. If you see any, cut or pull them apart and straighten them out away from the trunk.
3. Dig your hole the same depth as the pot and twice as wide. Make sure the root flare is visible when the tree is planted (Figure 1.)
4. You do not usually need to amend the soil. Let the tree get used to the natural soil that its roots will expand into.
5. After planting, pack down the soil and place a ring of mulch around the tree. It should look like a donut—don't let mulch touch the base of the tree. The ring should be 3 inches away from the base, 3 inches high, and 3 feet wide. (Figure 2)
6. Water thoroughly immediately after planting and then refer to the “Watering Schedule” on the other side of this paper.

View our instructional planting video here:

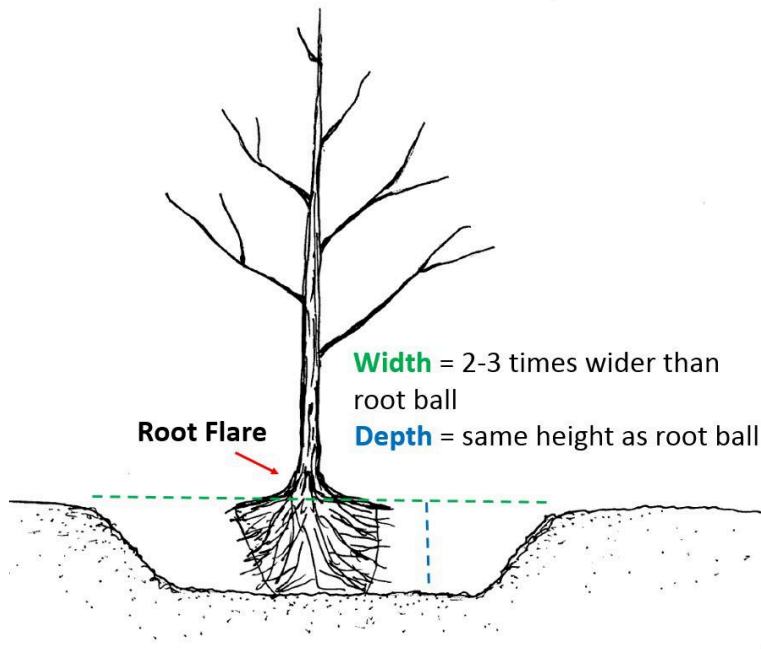
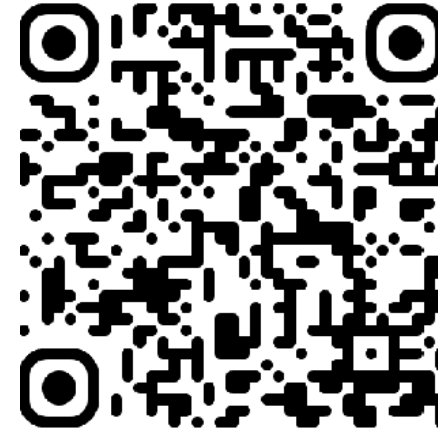


Figure 1

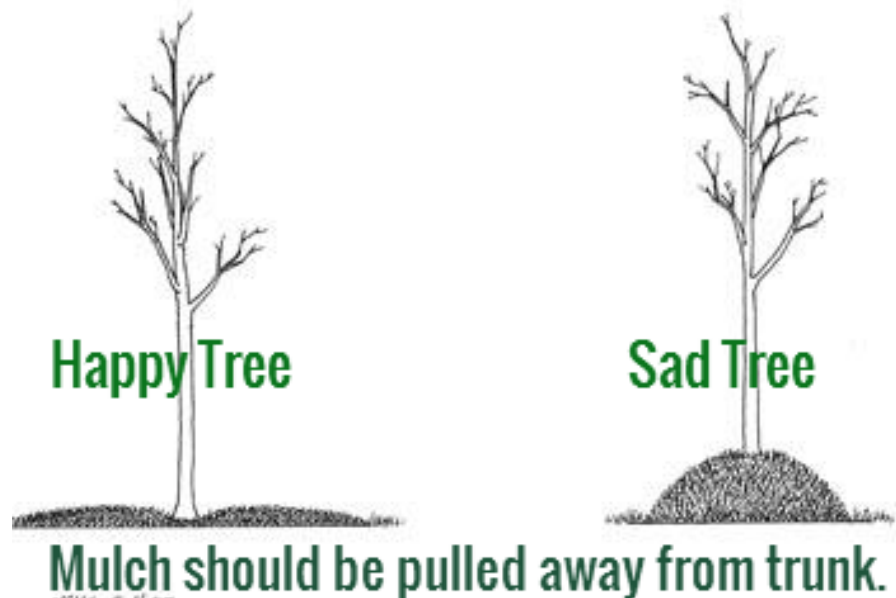


Figure 2

## **Fertilizing**

We recommend using fertilizer spikes, if your tree needs fertilizer. “Fruit Tree Spikes” and “Tree & Shrub Spikes.” Follow instructions on the package. Typically, you should only need to fertilize once per year, in April. Most of our trees you do not need to fertilize at planting, they should be fertilized for the year and you can fertilize again in April.

## **Deer/Animal Protection**

If deer or other pesky animals frequent the area that your tree is planted, we suggest you protect the tree with either a bark protector (best for trees with branches at 4’+), tree cage (works for even the smallest trees with low branches), or planting the tree in a fenced area.

## **Pruning**

Young trees will need yearly pruning to maintain good form and health. The best time to prune is in winter, when all the leaves have fallen off. You’ll want to use clean, sharp pruners and remove or reduce crossing/rubbing branches, any dead branches, and maintain single leader (for most trees) and balanced branching. You should not remove more than 25% at one time. The correct place to cut to remove a branch is just outside the branch collar. The correct place to cut to reduce a branch is at an outward pointing bud.

## **Staking**

We recommend keeping the current bamboo stake on the tree for 1 year maximum if needed. You may or may not want/need to stake with wooden stakes after removing the bamboo stakes depending on if the tree is in a windy location, is leaning or seems weak or top heavy.

## **Watering Schedule**

For the first year—water about 2-3 times per week with 5 gallons (depending on precipitation)  
Winter- keep the soil damp and do not allow the roots to freeze without water in the soil. In the second year, be sure to give your tree water during dry weather and maintain soil dampness.

## **Re-Mulching**

Every 4 to 6 months you will need to refresh your mulch. You can do this by fluffing and stirring up the mulch that has been packed down over time. Then add enough to maintain a 2 to 3” thick layer, while keeping the root flare and surface roots exposed.. We recommend leaf compost mulch.

## **Spraying Pome and Stone Fruits**

\*(Pome: Apple, Pear, Crabapple, Serviceberry, Hawthorn...Stone: Peach, Nectarine, Plum, Cherry, Apricot)\*

We recommend spraying Pome and Stone Fruits with Copper Fungicide or Sulfur from February through June/July, roughly every 2-3 weeks, and after every time it rains 1 inch or more. You should spray the whole tree including the canopy. If you need to use an insecticide, we recommend Sevin Insecticide. You can buy Copper Fungicide spray and Sevin Insecticide online or in most hardware and garden supply stores. There are differing methodologies when it comes to spraying and you should do your own research to figure out what’s best for you.

## **1st Year Fruit**

The first year *or two* your fruit tree produces fruit you will want to thin out the fruit. You will need to pinch off about 75% of the fruits growing on the tree while they are about the size of a quarter or less. This will force energy back into the tree, strengthening the tree’s branches and trunk. You need to make the tree strong enough to hold up the weight of its own fruit, so the branches do not break.

## **Figs, Pomegranates, Persimmon Cultivars**

These 3 types of plants are extra sensitive to cold weather and are best planted in Spring. We highly suggest you wrap them in burlap fabric for the first 2-3 winters to acclimate them. Even with this added protection you can expect figs to die back significantly. They will burst with life again in the growing season regardless of that winter die-back.

For more information on spraying, pruning, fertilizing etc., please visit our website [Treeauthority.net](http://Treeauthority.net) and click on the ‘Caring For Your Trees’ page.

Still have questions? Call/text Hasan Malik at 215-694-9607 or email [Hasan@TreeAuthority.net](mailto:Hasan@TreeAuthority.net)