



Borough of Glen Rock Tree Tips

How to plant or transplant a tree

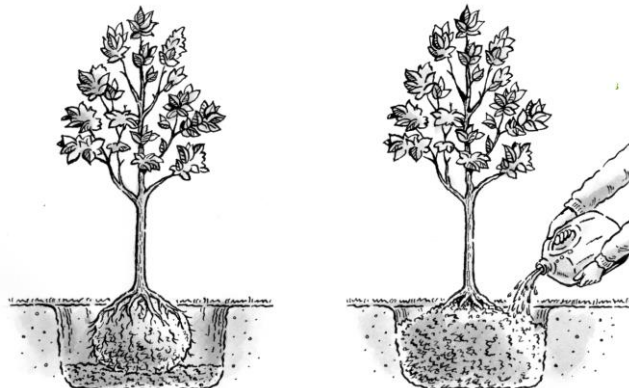
Transplanting produces a shock to a tree's growth system. It must be done in a way that creates as little stress as possible. The danger of water loss is especially critical. Preferably, the tree will be balled and burlapped. At all times, care must be taken to keep the roots moist, but not wet.

Steps to plant a tree

- Dig a hole 2-5 times the diameter of the root ball, loosen the soil to help roots grow.
- Put some of the loose soil you have dug back into the hole, and press it down to make a solid base for the tree roots. Pour one gallon of water into the hole, and let it absorb. Place the tree carefully in the hole. After placing the tree, remove wires or mesh.
- *Important:* Make sure the trunk of the tree is above the ground and the roots are below. The bottom of the trunk spreads out slightly in an area called the flare. The flare should be above ground and level with the surface of the soil.
- Using the remainder of the dug soil, fill in carefully around the root ball, pressing down firmly. Form a small basin of soil around the trunk to prevent water run-off.
- Water thoroughly with 2-3 gallons of water. Cover the top of the tree pit with prepared compost or mulch.
- Make a watering schedule. Slowly pour 15 -20 gallons of water (slow drip for 1-2 hours) once a week around the tree. Regular watering is needed for the first two growing seasons, especially important in the summer.

Following up after planting

- *Watering* – is the key to tree survival. It should be used when filling the planting hole to eliminate large air cavities, firm the soil around fine roots, and make nourishment available to the tree.
- *Pruning* – generally, it's best not to prune after planting, except for dead or broken branches.
- *Fertilizing* – to avoid root burn, don't fertilize shade trees until the late spring of the second year after planting.
- *Mulching* – mulch is a young tree's best friend, placed 2 to 4 inches deep on the soil around the tree, but not touching the trunk.



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