

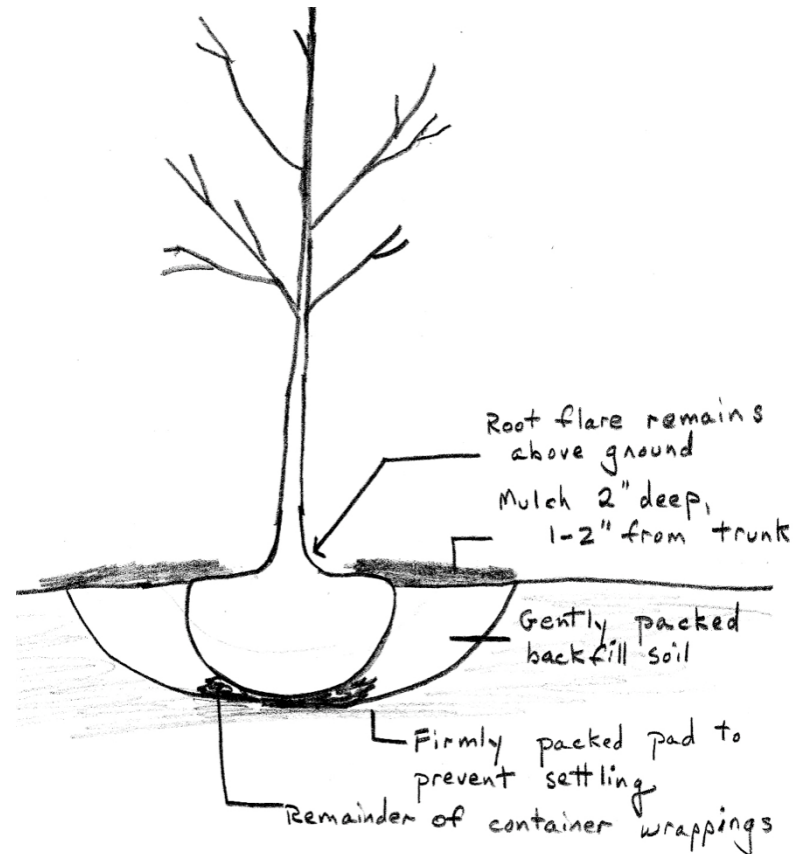
How to Plant a Tree (or Shrub)

Planning for Planting

- “Right plant, right place” – choose a plant that meets your needs and the site’s growing conditions.
- Choose a healthy plant, with balanced branches and root growth.
- Consider cultivars for better growth habit and disease resistance.

Quick Planting Guide

- Dig a hole that is wider, not deeper.
- Make sure the plant sits in the hole high enough to see the root flare. While it is better to plant too high, rather than too low, the root ball must be covered with soil so it doesn’t dry out.
- Remove the container before placing the plant in the hole. If the plant is in a wire basket or wrapped with burlap and tied, place it in the hole and then cut away as much as possible.
- If the plant has girdling roots, roots that tightly circle the perimeter of the root ball, make four evenly spaced vertical cuts around the root ball, through the circling roots.
- Backfill with the same soil and light tamp down as the hole is filled.
- Water the plant to hydrate and ‘set’ the soil. Do not tamp down the soil after watering.
- Spread mulch 2” deep in a donut shape, with no mulch against the trunk. Do not make a mulch volcano.
- Stake only if necessary and only for the first year.
- Install “gator bag” for easier watering. Water weekly for the first spring and summer the plant is in the ground.
- Protect trunk from lawnmowers and weed whackers.



For more planting and tree care tips and a very helpful video on planting containerized trees, visit the Haddonfield Shade Tree Commission webpage: www.haddonfieldnj.org/borough_boards-shade.php