

How To Plant & Stake A Tree

1. Right Tree - Right Place - Right Reason.

Selecting the right tree is important because of the impact it has on the landscape and the length of time required to reach maturity. Trees are a tremendous benefit to the environment and cool our cities.

- ◆ When considering placement, be sure the mature tree will fit safely, without interfering with overhead power lines, underground utilities, buildings, and pedestrian traffic.
- ◆ To locate underground utilities, call 811 or submit a ticket online before you dig. Visit arizona811.com.
- ◆ Choosing trees that are native to the Arizona desert, or that are very well adapted to our climate and conditions, greatly increases success.
- ◆ A tremendous selection is available to meet almost any function in your landscape. Visit our tree section on the Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert website.



2. Prepare the Planting Hole.

Most trees will develop a shallow spreading root system with a few anchor roots. University research shows that tree roots grow within the top two to three feet of the soil and spread well beyond the drip line of the tree.

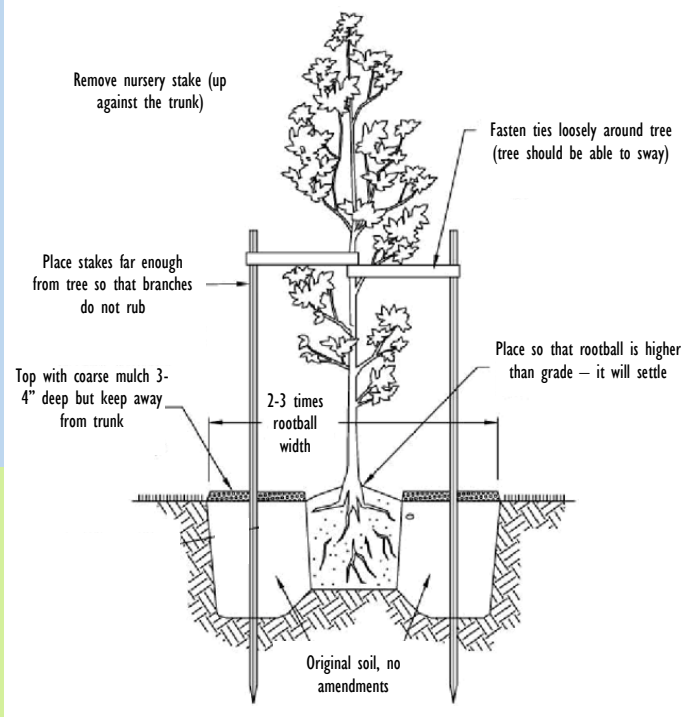
Follow these steps when planting a tree:

- ◆ Till or loosen the soil in the planting site 3-4 times the diameter of the root ball but not deeper than the root ball.
- ◆ Dig the planting hole twice as wide but not quite as deep as the root ball.



3. Tree Placement and Backfill.

- ◆ Gently slide the root ball out of the container, handling the plant by the root ball and not the trunk.
- ◆ If roots are matted or circling, make 4-5 cuts lengthwise, 1-inch deep with a sharp knife, or shave the matted roots off the edge.
- ◆ Place the tree carefully into the planting hole making sure the top of the root ball is a little bit above the soil grade. Up to 1-inch is good.
- ◆ Backfill with unamended soil. Firm soil, but do not compact.
- ◆ Water the area thoroughly, then apply 2-4 inches of organic mulch on top of the soil surface. Keep mulch away from the tree trunk.
- ◆ Don't fertilize at time of planting. Keep lower branches to strengthen the trunk.



4. Tree Staking.

- ◆ Always remove the stakes which were placed on the tree at the nursery. These are usually located up against the trunk or are placed into the root ball of the tree.
- ◆ Stake your tree only if absolutely necessary. Staking can do more harm than good to a young tree. Try to purchase a tree at the nursery that has a well-developed trunk and will not need staking.
- ◆ If staking is necessary, use two stakes placed outside of the root ball. Place non-abrasive ties loosely around the trunk about six inches above the location on the trunk that will hold the tree in an upright position. Check the ties frequently and remove as soon as possible. When a tree is allowed to bend and move in the wind, the trunk will develop greater strength.



Trees Are Cool!
Help Us Grow a Cooler Community!

With a goal to plant one million trees by 2050, we need your help. Plant a tree! Then register the date you planted and the planting location on our online engagement platform at <https://www.mesalistens.com/trees-are-cool>.

