

How to plant a tree

•**Locate all underground utilities prior to digging.** Contact New Jersey One Call at **811**

•**Dig a shallow, broad planting hole,** 2-3 times wider than the root ball, but only as deep as the root ball.

•**Remove the container or cut away the wire basket around the tree root ball.** Straighten, cut, or remove any circling roots.

•**Place the tree at the proper height.** Note that if the tree is planted too deep, new roots will have difficulty developing because of a lack of oxygen. The base of the trunk should be slightly above ground level.

•**Straighten the tree in the hole.** Before backfilling, view the tree from several directions to confirm it is straight.

•**Fill the hole gently, but firmly.** Pack soil around the base of the root ball to stabilize it. Fill the remainder of the hole, firmly packing the soil to eliminate air pockets that may dry out roots. Further reduce air pockets by watering periodically while backfilling. Avoid fertilization at the time of planting.

•**Stake the tree only if necessary.** Trees establish faster and develop stronger trunk and root systems if they are not staked at the time of planting.

•**Mulch the base of the tree.** Mulch spread around the base of a tree helps to hold moisture, moderate soil temperature extremes, and reduce grass and weed competition. Limit mulch depth to 2-3 inches, and do not allow mulch to touch the tree trunk.

•**Provide follow-up care.** Keep the soil moist, but not water-logged.

Source: www.treesaregood.org