

# New Tree Planting

## Things to Consider Before Planting a Tree

### Where to Plant

If there are overhead utilities plant a low growing tree or select a different planting site. Planting a tall growing tree where it doesn't have room to grow can lead to the unsightly and unhealthy practice of topping, shown left.



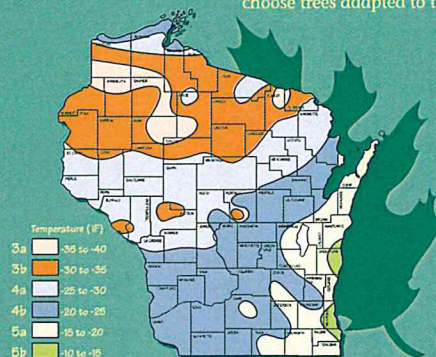
### Right Tree Right Place

Make sure you leave plenty of room for your tree to grow. That perfect spot right next to the house may not be so perfect when the tree reaches its mature size.



### The Hardiness Zone

Know your hardiness zone and choose trees adapted to that zone.



## 7 Steps in Planting Your Tree

**IMPORTANT – Call Before You Dig!**  
Contact Diggers Hotline at 1-800-242-8511



**Step 1 →** Determine where the root collar is located within the root ball.



**Step 2 →** Dig a planting space two to three times wider than the root ball, but no deeper. To determine proper planting depth, measure the distance from the bottom of the root ball to the root collar.



**Step 3 →** Before placing a tree in its planting space, remove all tags, ribbons, and trunk guard. To avoid root damage, don't drag or lift the tree by the trunk. Gently guide the tree into the planting hole.



**Step 4 →** Remove twine, clip and fold back wire basket and trim burlap. If left on, this material can girdle the tree. *Note:* If planting a containerized tree remove the entire pot.



**Step 5 →** Carefully remove soil from the top of the root ball to expose the root collar. Check to see that the root collar is either level with or 1" to 2" above finished grade. *Planting a tree too deep can kill it!*



**Step 6 →** Back fill planting space with soil. Water thoroughly to eliminate air pockets. Do not tamp!



**Step 7 →** Celebrate a job well done ... a properly planted tree!

## Caring for Your Tree



**Watering -** Water as needed throughout the season, about 1" per week.

**Mulching -** To properly mulch, apply 2" to 4" of woody mulch (aged wood chips, shredded bark or something similar) over the root zone. Make sure to pull the mulch 3" to 6" away from the trunk.



### Staking -

Most newly planted trees do not need to be staked. If staking is necessary, use wide webbing straps. Secure webbing to stakes with heavy gauge wire. Attach materials so that the tree is allowed to move in the wind.



Do not encircle the tree with wire threaded through a garden hose – this can girdle the tree.

**Proper Pruning -** Less is better, newly planted trees need all the leaves they can get. Remove only dead, broken, diseased or rubbing branches.



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