

Planting Tips

1. Pick your place.

- Find a place that has the right amount of light and space for your tree. Does your tree like light or shade? How much will it grow?
- Plant your tree at least five feet from sidewalks and 10 feet from other trees and buildings. If you have a bigger growing tree, give it twice as much space!
- Look up! Avoid planting trees under power lines.

2. Prepare. Then, plant your tree.

[See the diagram at the end of this document.](#)

- Take everything off the tree, including any tape and bamboo stakes (if present). The bamboo stake needs to come off because as the tree grows, the bamboo stake can damage the trunk. You can leave the tree name tag on if you want to refer to it later.
- Brush any soil or mulch off the root flare of the trunk. The root flare is the place where the trunk gets wider right before the first large root emerges. The root flare is often buried in the pot. So, remove the potting soil from around the trunk until you uncover it.
- Dig a hole that is only as deep as the pot, but about three times as wide. New trees like wide, shallow holes. Loosen soil within the hole and on the sides of the hole.
- Place your tree in the hole, making sure the root flare is above ground and the tree trunk is straight. You may have to add more soil to the bottom of the hole if the hole is too deep.
- Fill the hole with a mix of topsoil and the soil you dug out of the ground. Make sure no soil covers the root flare of the tree.
- Spread mulch two inches thick in a two-foot radius circle around your new tree. Make sure there is no mulch touching the trunk.
- Put a tree guard at the base of the tree to protect it from string trimmers (also called weed whackers!).
- Give your tree lots of water right after planting.
- Show off your tree! [Email us](mailto:sustainability@orangecountync.gov) (sustainability@orangecountync.gov) a picture of your newly planted tree for us to share.

3. Continue to care for your tree.

- Be sure your tree is sufficiently watered for the first two years it is in the ground! When it has leaves on it, water your tree about once a week for about two minutes.
- As your tree grows, make the mulch ring around it wider so the roots have more room to grow.

Do you want to learn more about trees?

Go to the [NC Cooperative Extension Trees web page](https://go.ncsu.edu/more-about-trees) (<https://go.ncsu.edu/more-about-trees>) or link in with the QR code below.



TREE PLANTING DIAGRAM

