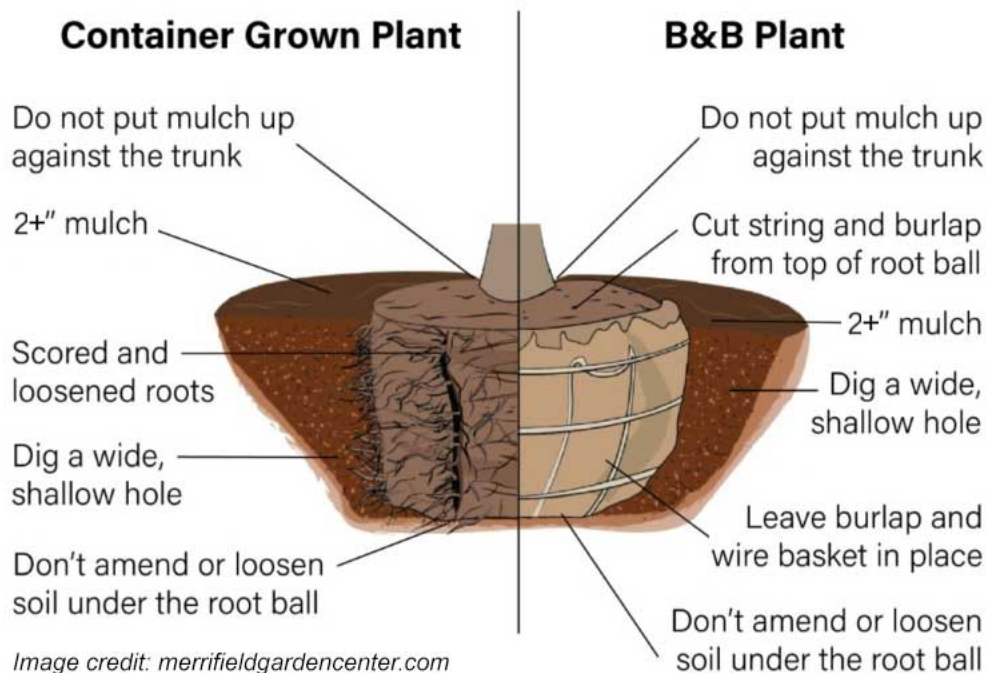


How to Plant Your New Tree

1. Choose an appropriate location. Consider the canopy height and width of the tree — at maturity. Stay well away from overhead utility lines and buildings on your site. **Where there may be underground utilities, call 811 or submit an online ticket** (at least 2 days beforehand) **before you dig.** Also consider whether your tree species thrives in sunny or shady locations, and what the soil drainage is like.

2. Dig a hole. Dig approximately **twice the width and equal in depth to the bare root or container/root ball height** of your tree, as shown below.

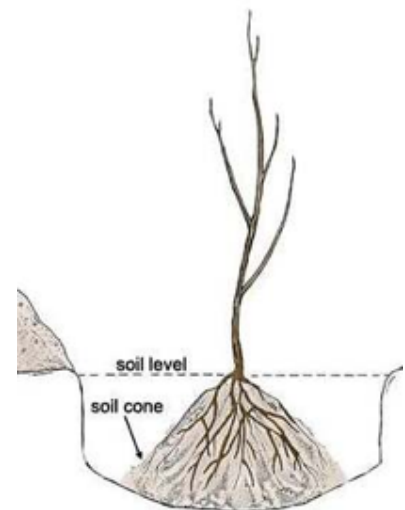


3. Prepare & place the tree.

-- **If your tree is in a pot or other container,** gently lift the tree and its dirt/root base out of the container. Flexing the pot, if possible, can help. Then gently loosen the soil that's around then roots.

-- **If your tree is bare root,** make a 'cone' of loose soil in the center of the hole, as shown at right. Then place the roots to lie on and around the cone. Note: a young tree with a thick central taproot doesn't need a cone.

-- **If your tree has a burlap covered root ball,** position the tree near the hole and remove any metal support cage. Once in the hole, remove all of the twine and as much of the burlap as possible, cutting it away to the base of the root ball if you can without damaging the roots. If its actual burlap, it's OK to leave some of it on as long as you can expose the top half of the root ball. If it's synthetic material, it will not biodegrade and is best to remove all of it from the ball if possible.



For any of the above, make sure the tree's root crown (the small 'knuckle' right above where the roots begin on the young tree's trunk) is **at or slightly above the level of the soil surrounding the hole**. Also check that the tree is vertical.

4. Fill & firm the hole. With the previously removed soil, gently re-fill the hole over and around the roots. Then place your hands on the soil to gently firm the soil all the way around the tree. **This is important!** You are pushing excess air out of the planting hole to protect the roots, ensuring the young tree will root well and stay straight.

5. (Optional). Add compost on top. You can use compost in a circle around the tree **only on the surface** of the soil. Make sure to keep the compost at least six inches away from the trunk. Compost is very slow food for the tree and also acts to improve the texture of the soil. It improves both clay soil and sandy soil.

6. Mulch. Mulch around the tree to a diameter of 2-3 feet. Be generous. Five inches of depth is fine. To ensure the mulch does not touch the base of the tree, which can cause rot, leave a few inches between the trunk and the mulch circle.

7. (Optional) Wind stake the trunk. If located in a windy spot, place one or two thick stakes (not provided) to support the tree's trunk. Trees grow best without stakes. However, sometimes staking is unavoidable. One year of staking should be sufficient to survive high winds. Leaving the tree staked for longer may impede its growth.

8. Protect from nibblers. If you were provided fencing and bamboo stakes, pound the four stakes at least 1' deep into the ground to form a 2' square around the tree. Then tie the fencing around the *outside* of the stakes, using the wire pieces provided and/or twist ties as needed to connect and hold the fence securely to the stakes. This fencing will discourage deer browsing and smaller critters. If you have a strong critter presence at your site, consider adding a 2' high light metal fence around the square.

9. Water. Water the planted tree generously right away. Then keep at it, especially during hotter months when the young trees will need up to 10 gallons of water per week!

You're done! **Congratulations!** Need more help? Or want to help Whatcom Million Trees Project plant & protect local trees and forests? Please reach out to us via the contact form at whatcommilliontrees.org Thanks!

