

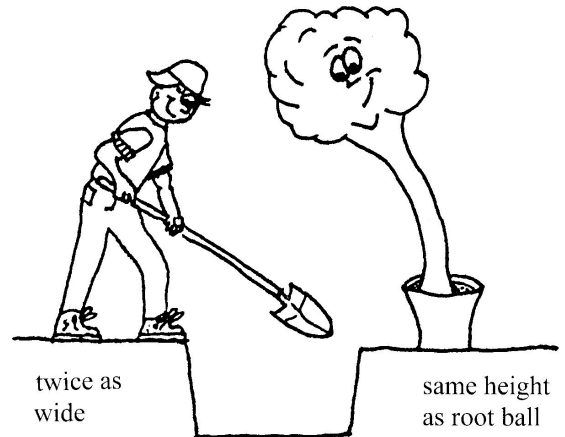
Plant a Tree

Step 1-Digging the hole

Dig the hole as deep as the root ball (the ball of soil and roots of a plant growing in a pot or other container) and twice as wide. If surrounding soil is too hard, loosen it with a shovel and remove rocks.

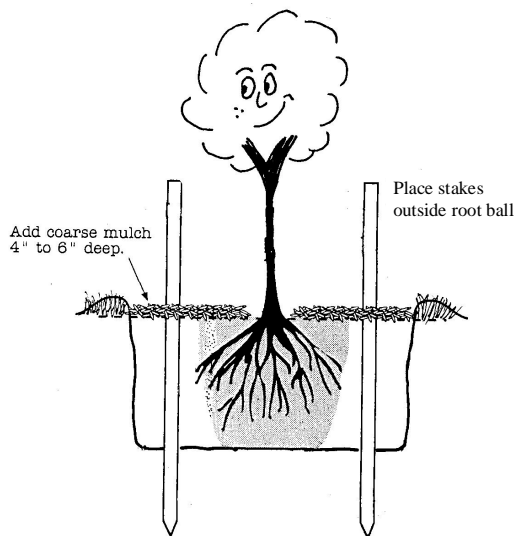
Step 2-Take the tree out of the container

If the roots are circling around inside of the pot, straighten them out or cut them. If you can see many roots growing outside of the soil, then score the root ball with your shovel (cut the root ball 3-4 times in the same direction as the trunk grows). This will help the other roots grow out to find water and keep the tree growing tall and strong.



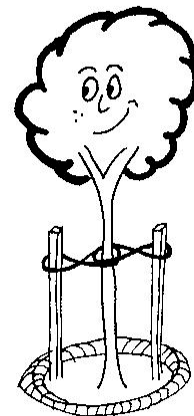
Step 3 - Place the tree in the hole. Make sure the top of the root ball is even with the top edge of the hole. If your tree has burlap around the root ball, place the tree in the hole, then carefully untie the burlap. Leave the burlap lying in the bottom of the hole. It will biodegrade and become part of the soil.

Step 4 - Put soil back into the hole around the root ball. Pack it down with your hands to remove air pockets. Make a dam about the same size as the hole was around the tree with left over soil. This will make a basin or berm to hold water while the tree drinks.



Step 5 - Staking the Tree. Only use stakes on a yard tree if it needs help standing or if it is in a windy climate. There are so many hazards facing trees in public places; these trees are usually staked for the first year. Place the stakes just outside the root ball, and use special tree tying material to attach tree and stakes. Tie in a figure eight pattern to prevent bark damage.

Step 6 - Water. Give your tree a good soaking of water to help it settle into its new home.



Through its *Partners for the Planet* Network, **TREE MUSKETEERS** offers a vehicle for kids to function as the international youth environmental movement through: Hotline, Website, Speakers Bureau, Newsletter, Resource Sharing, How-to Kits and Youth Campaigns.