

BEFORE YOU PLANT A TREE:

1. Site selection: Determine the location that the tree is to be placed and select a species that will be able to thrive in that environment. There are several environmental factors to consider:

- Soil health: pH, structure and density as well as drainage
- Sun: full or partial
- Overhead obstructions: Overhead utilities, structures, other trees (Overhead obstacles will determine what size tree to plant. Never plant directly under utility lines.)

2. Species selection: Species selection should be based on:

- What is the purpose/need for the tree? Create a canopy? Aesthetic?, etc.
- Tree byproducts: Understand what the tree produces, such as flowers and fruits. Example: A sweetgum tree produces a fruit that is a spiky ball with a diameter of 1-1.5 in. This type of byproduct is not conducive in a play area where children may injure themselves on the fruit.

3. Call Kentucky 811 Before You Dig:

Avoid potential costly and/or dangerous accidents that are caused when contact is made with underground utility. BUD works on a two day response period so call a week in advance. For more information, go to: <http://kentucky811.org>

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> shovel | <input type="checkbox"/> box cutter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> spade | <input type="checkbox"/> scissors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> wheel barrow or cart |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wire cutters | <input type="checkbox"/> closed-toe shoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tarp (8X10') | <input type="checkbox"/> comfortable clothes |



REGISTER YOUR TREE

You've worked hard to plant your tree, show your pride and tell everyone about it.

Register your tree on the Tree Tracker at www.brightsideinc.org and click on the tree registry logo.



Donor-funded and volunteer driven... for a more beautiful Louisville.

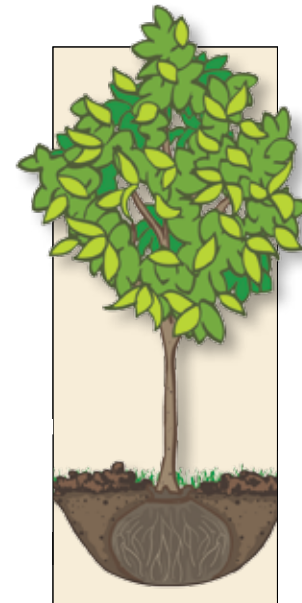
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TEN EASY STEPS TO TREE PLANTING SUCCESS.



*Created by Erin Thompson
Brightside Urban Forester*

DIGGING YOUR HOLE

Important Factor #1: The width of your hole needs to be 2-3 times the width of the rootball.
Example: If your root ball is 2 ft. wide, then your hole needs to be at least 4 ft. wide.

Important Factor #2: The hole depth needs to be the same measurement as the bottom of the root ball to the trunk flare. If the trunk flare is not exposed, gently remove soil to expose and measure accordingly.

STEP 1 Place tarp adjacent to the location where the hole is to be dug. Using the spade, remove the sod from the diameter size circle that has been pre-determined for the size of the hole (*Important Factor #1*). This can be easily accomplished by thinking of the circle as a pie and cutting out triangular pie wedges from the circle. Insert the spade deep enough to get under the grass's root system and use the spade horizontally under the grass to sever the attaching root system and cut away each piece.

STEP 2 Remove the soil from the hole and place it on the tarp adjacent to the sod pieces while breaking up any large clumps during removal. The shape of your hole should be that of a saucer, meaning sloped sides with the greatest depth in the center.

STEP 3 Verify that the hole is the correct depth (*Important Factor #2*) and scarify or roughen the walls of the hole to avoid soil compaction from the shovel.

PLACEMENT

Important Factor #3: Always handle the tree by the root ball, never by the trunk or crown. The trunk and crown should only be handled to maneuver and guide the tree

STEP 4 Remove roping and ties from the crown of the tree. Remove the container or balled and burlapped tree (B&B) as follows:

Container trees: Gently tap the outside or roll the container to loosen. If soil is not too loose, remove your tree from the container. Remove any excess soil to expose trunk flare.

B&B trees: Using wire cutters, remove the flat bottom section of the wire cage while leaving the walls intact.

STEP 5 Place the tree in the hole. Check from four directions that the tree is correctly oriented, adjust as needed. If planting a B&B tree:

- Carefully cut away the remainder of the wire basket and burlap. If unable to cut away all the burlap, remove as much as possible only leaving behind a small swath under the base of the ball.
- Remove excess soil from the top of the root ball to the point that the fine root hairs are just visible.

COMPLETION

STEP 6 Backfill the hole with the soil from the tarp. Fill the hole at intervals (around 5 inches of soil), gently patting down the soil adjacent to the root ball to encourage stability. During the whole backfill process, break up any large chunks of soil and

use the tip of the shovel to gently stab the soil reducing air pockets. Never compact the soil!

STEP 7 Create a circular berm on the outer edge of the now filled hole by turning the sod pieces over so the grass side is down. Berms need to be 4 inches high and 8 inches wide. Berms discourage mowers and other equipment from entering the root zone and act as a retaining wall for mulch.

STEP 8 Fill the berm with 3-4 in. of mulch avoiding a 4 in. perimeter at the truck of the tree.

STEP 9 Give the tree a good watering. Remove any excess labeling, etc.

STEP 10 Staking - Not all trees need to be staked, only stake if conditions such as high winds or poor growth structure call for it. Stake the tree using a flat, broad roping and stakes that are around 5 ft. in height.

