

3 YEAR WATERING REGIMEN

Scheduled watering should take place at the time of planting, and for the next three years after installation. Water slowly and evenly across the root zone. Watering bags are recommended.

Planting Day: Tree needs to be watered immediately.

Year 1: Water tree once a week. Enough water should be applied, so the tree receives the equivalent of one (1) inch of rainfall weekly* when temperatures are in the high 70s (°F) or above**. The watering schedule should start approximately in May and conclude in October.

Year 2: Water tree every other week from May through October, or when temperatures are in the high 70s (°F) and above.

Year 3: Water tree once a month from May through October, or when temperatures are in the high 70s (°F) and above.

**If a rainfall event produces one (1) inch or more of rainfall, there is no need to water trees. Over watering can damage trees. One can test the soil moisture levels adjacent to the root zone by digging at a depth of two (2) inches, and then feel for moisture.*

***Adjust timing of watering start and/or end dates based on current temperatures experienced.*



URBAN FORESTRY
Louisville Parks and Recreation

September 2022

HOW TO GUIDE: ON PLANTING A BALLED AND BURLAPPED TREE



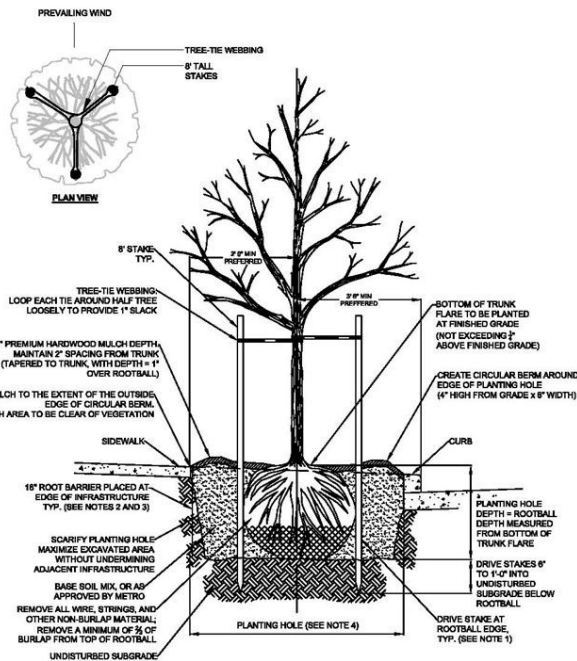
URBAN FORESTRY

Louisville Parks and Recreation

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<https://louisvilleky.gov/government/urban-forestry>



- NOTES:
1. IF STAKING IS NECESSARY, REMOVE STAKES ONE YEAR AFTER INSTALLATION.
 2. ROOT BARRIER SHALL BE PLACED WHERE ROOTBALL IS WITHIN THREE (3) FEET OF INFRASTRUCTURE.
 3. ROOT BARRIER IS NOT REQUIRED WITH VERTICAL CURB EQUAL TO OR EXCEEDING 18" IN DEPTH.
 4. PLANTING HOLE SHOULD HAVE MINIMUM WIDTH 2 TIMES ROOTBALL DIAMETER.

BEFORE YOU PLANT A TREE

Site Selection- Consider soil health, sunlight, overhead obstructions.

Species Selection- Please visit the Urban Forestry website for tree lists.

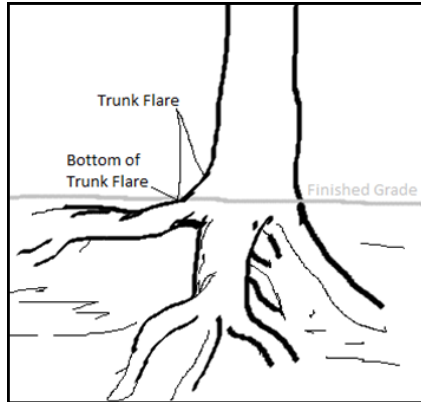
Call Kentucky 811 Before You Dig- Have BUD mark underground utilities to prevent accidents.

PLANTING IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Permits- Please visit the Urban Forestry website for permits. Permits must be obtained for plantings in the public right of way.

DIGGING- Depth of planting hole shall be equal to the depth of the root ball measured from the **shallowest location on the bottom of the trunk flare to the bottom of the root ball.**

The width of the hole shall be a minimum of 2 times the root ball diameter. The sides of the hole shall be sloped and loose (scarify sides to deter compaction).



Trick: Use a spade or shovel to measure the diameter and depth of the hole.

2. Place tarp adjacent to the location of the pre-determined hole. Using a spade, remove sod from the hole in wedges. Insert the spade deep enough to get under the grass's root system. Use the spade horizontally under the grass to sever the attaching root system and cut away each piece.

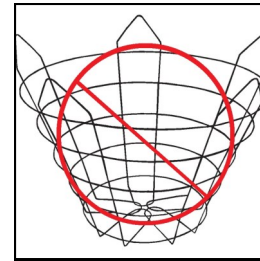
3. Remove soil to make the hole, and place soil next to sod pieces on tarp. Break up any large clumps during removal. The hole should be of saucer shape (sloped sides with the greatest depth in the center).

4. Verify that the hole is the correct depth. Scarify or roughen the walls of the hole to avoid soil compaction from the shovel. Use spade, shovel or measuring tape to verify depth of hole.

Note: Always handle the tree by root ball, never by trunk or crown.

5. PLANTING- Remove roping and ties from the crown of the tree. Using wire cutters remove the bottom section of the wire cage, leaving the rest of the basket intact. Using a box cutter make a circular cut around the bottom section of burlap, exposing the bottom part of the root ball. Remove any excess soil to expose bottom of trunk flare. Roll tree into hole. Next, **remove the entire wire basket and burlap.**

Note: If unable to remove burlap entirely, remove a minimum of 2/3 of burlap from top of root ball. Leave the remaining 1/3 of burlap at bottom of root ball.



Directionality- Check from four cardinal directions that the tree is correctly oriented. If planting on street make sure dominate branches are oriented parallel with street.

Excess soil- Remove excess soil from top of root ball to the point that fine root hairs are just visible. Make any corrections to root ball if girdling roots are visible.

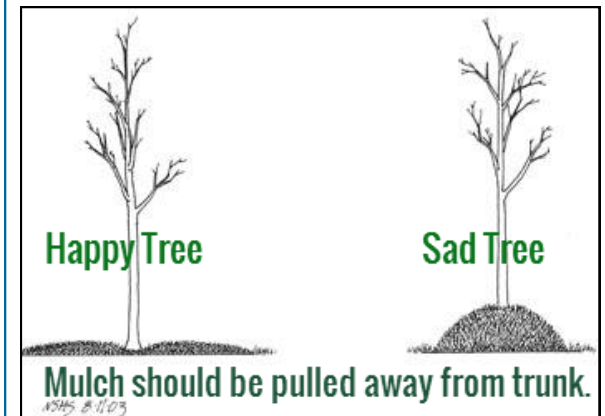
Straightness of the trunk- To make sure a tree is planted straight look at the bottom of the trunk flare to 3 feet up the trunk. Look at this trunk zone in four cardinal directions. Do not look at tree crown to determine straightness of trunk.

6. BACKFILL- Backfill hole with soil from tarp. Fill hole at intervals (~6 inches of soil), gently patting down soil adjacent to root ball. Do not step on root ball. If still present, break up any large chunks of soil. Use the tip of the shovel to gently stab the soil reducing air pockets. Never compact the soil.

7. BERM- Create a circular soil berm 4 inches high and 8 inches wide. The berm should be located along the outside perimeter of the hole. If sod is dug in creation of the hole and remains in excess, the Division recommends using sod as base for berm. Flip sod over so grass is facing the ground, and then cover with excess soil. Compact sides of berm.

8. WATER- Slowly add 20 gallons of water. Water should be applied prior to mulching in case the tree shifts.

9. MULCH- Apply mulch at a depth of 2-4 inches across the diameter of the hole or drip line. Do not apply mulch to base of trunk—leave 2 inch radius of space between trunk and start of the mulch.



10. STAKE- Not all trees need to be staked, only stake if conditions, such as high winds or poor growth structure call for staking. If staking is necessary use three (3) stakes, oriented in a triangle formation around the tree. Use tree tie webbing; do not use a metal material to attach stakes to tree.