

Tree Planting and Care Tips

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

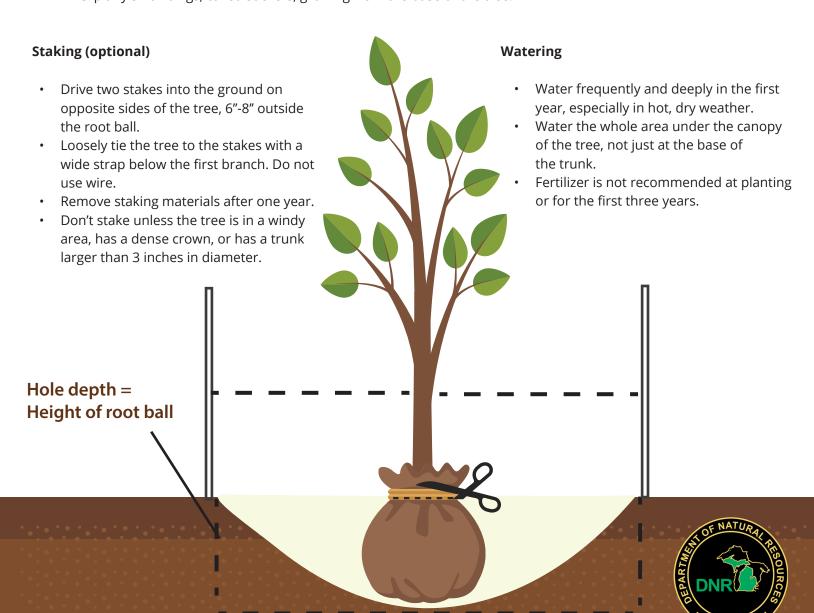
Planting

- The best seasons to plant a tree are spring and fall.
- Call 811 before digging to have utility lines located and marked. Avoid planting under power lines.
- Dig a saucer-shaped hole as deep as the tree's root ball and three times as wide.
- Break up the sides of the hole so the roots can grow through.
- Set the root ball in the center of the hole, root flare level with the top of the hole or slightly above.
- Cut away any burlap/wrapping. Remove non-biodegradable materials like plastic pots or ties.
- Gently fill the hole with soil and use water to settle it and remove air pockets.
- Add a 3-4" layer of mulch, leaving a 6" bare circle around the trunk to prevent trunk decay.

Care and maintenance

Pruning

- Prune away any dead or broken branches with clean, sharp pruning shears.
- Do not prune healthy branch tips or the tallest, center part of the tree.
- Clip any small twigs, called suckers, growing from the base of the tree.



Hole width = 3 times the size of root ball