

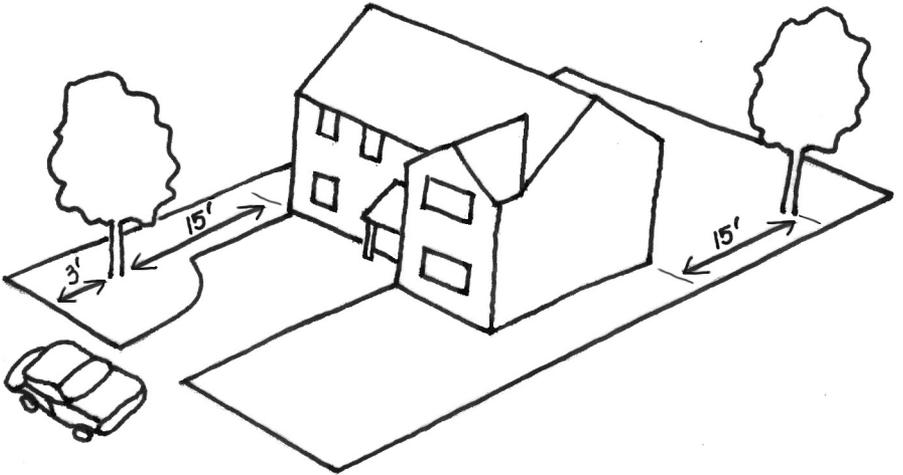
The Right Tree in the Right Place

*A guide to planting and caring
of your new tree.*



Why plant a tree?

- Trees increase property value.
- Trees shade and cool our homes, conserving energy.
- Trees also clean the air we breathe, prevent erosion, provide wind block and privacy.



Where do I plant a tree?

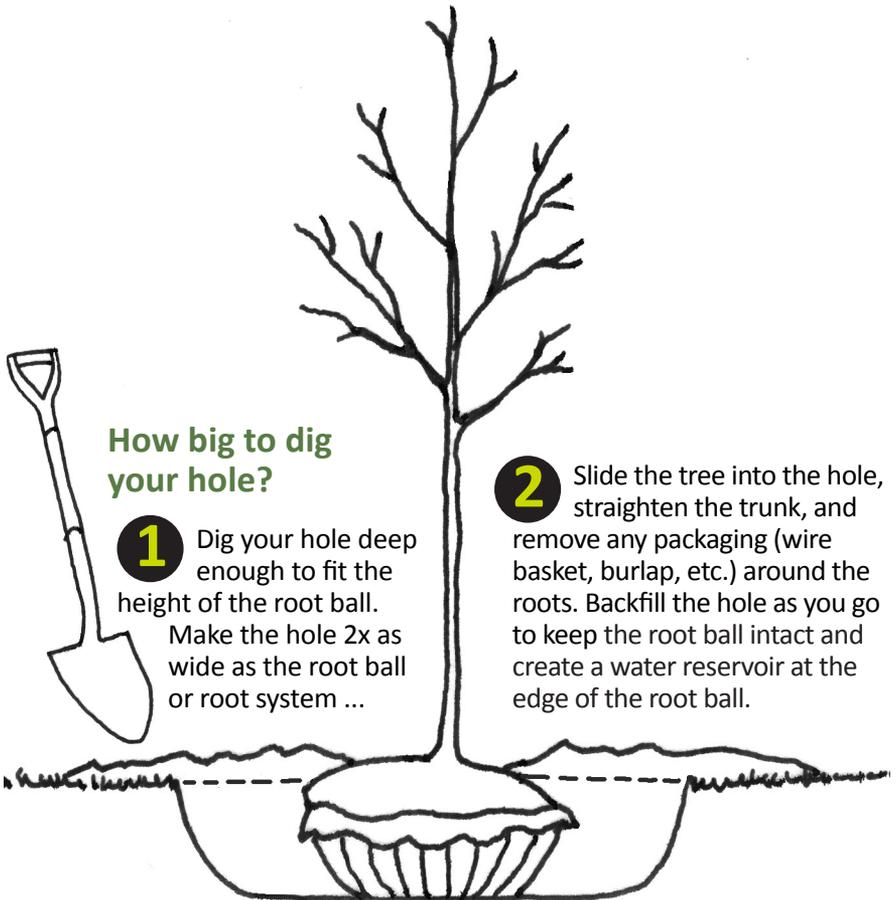
Remember, your tree will grow. Make sure your spot is:

- 3 feet from pavement or fencing on all sides
- 15 feet from buildings or other trees
- 25 feet from overhead wires, if your tree will grow taller than 30 feet

How to prep your tree.

Never carry your tree by its trunk (unless bare root). Lift from below the root ball.

Remove trunk wrap, twine around the branches, and labels. Leave protective wrapping around trunk & roots for now.



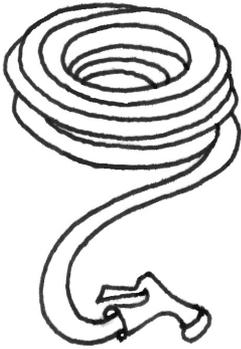
How big to dig your hole?

- 1 Dig your hole deep enough to fit the height of the root ball. Make the hole 2x as wide as the root ball or root system ...

- 2 Slide the tree into the hole, straighten the trunk, and remove any packaging (wire basket, burlap, etc.) around the roots. Backfill the hole as you go to keep the root ball intact and create a water reservoir at the edge of the root ball.

- 3 Water the root ball and entire backfilled area (about 20 gallons); remove trunk wrap and add deer protection.

- 4 Add 2-4 inches of mulch (one bag) over the back-filled/reservoir area, but do not cover any part of the trunk.



How do I care for my tree?

- Water thoroughly once a week (or fill the gator bag) during spring & fall and 2x weekly when its hot/dry in June-August, especially during the first 3 years after planting.
- Add mulch (one bag) around the tree annually to prevent weed growth and naturally insulate the tree, maintain moisture and nourish the tree.
- Mulch is great for roots but bad for bark – keep from covering any bark on the tree trunk.
- Keep lawnmowers and weed whackers away from the tree trunk. Avoid any digging, paving, or grading within the tree’s root zone (as wide as the tree canopy).
- Never tie string, ribbon, or wire around the trunk or branches. Do not nail or screw anything into your tree.
- Do not ‘top’ your tree (removing whole tops of trees or large branches) as it destroys the natural shape of the tree and can be fatal.
- Check with the town about any rules regarding planting and pruning. A permit is required for trees in the property’s ‘right-of-way.’
- Wrap trunk in a ‘deer protection sleeve.’



For more information about trees and Fairfield’s tree planting program:

- www.fairfieldct.org/treeplanting
- Contact us at: forestry@fairfield.org or call 203-701-8342.