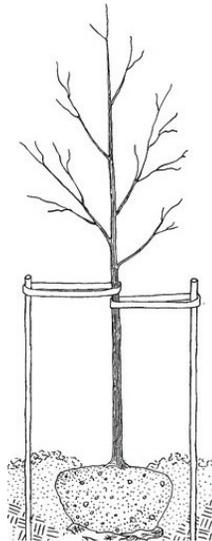


1. Call Okie (811) to identify and locate all utilities.
2. **Dig a shallow/broad planting hole:** Make the hole wide, as much as three times the diameter of the root ball but only as deep as the root ball.
3. **Identify the trunk flare:** where the roots spread at the base of the tree. This point should be partially visible after the tree has been planted.
4. **Remove tree from container:** gentle with the trunk.
5. **Place the tree at the proper height:** The majority of the roots on the newly planted tree will develop in the top 12 inches of soil. It is better to plant a tree a little high, than to plant it below the original growing level. Ensure the tree is straight.
6. **Fill the hole gently but firmly:** Pack soil firmly to eliminate air pockets that may cause roots to dry out. To avoid this problem, add soil a few inches at a time.
7. **Stake the tree if necessary:** With this method, two stakes used in conjunction with a wide, flexible tie material on the lower half of the tree will hold the tree upright, provide flexibility, and minimize injury to the trunk (see picture).
8. **Mulch the base of the tree:** Mulch acts as a blanket to hold moisture, moderate soil temperatures, and reduce competition from grass and weeds. 2 - 4 inch layer is ideal. More than 4 inches may cause problems for oxygen and moisture levels. A mulch-free area (1-2 inches wide at base of tree) is sufficient to avoid moist bark and prevent decay
9. **Water thoroughly.**



Follow Up Care

Think of planting a tree as a lifetime investment. How well the tree grows depends on the type of tree, location selected for planting, care provided when tree is planted, and care the tree receives after planting.

Watering

The goal is to give the tree's roots a good soaking every week to ten days. Usual landscape watering intended for lawns does not provide enough water for 5-gallon trees. A general rule of thumb is to use approximately 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for each watering. Using a hose with medium pressure, you will typically generate about 2 gallons a minute, so for a tree with a 4 inch diameter trunk, water for about 20 minutes to provide 40 gallons each week. You want to deeply soak the area in the tree's dripline (the area under the tree canopy), and to water at a slow enough rate that the water soaks in and doesn't run off. You can also water by hand, using buckets—5-gallon utility buckets are readily and cheaply available. One easy method is to use several buckets with 1/4 inch holes drilled in the bottom—space them around the tree's dripline, fill them with water, and let the water soak in slowly. A long soaker hose can also be spiraled around the dripline. The best time to water trees is early in the morning.

To keep your tree roots from freezing, water before a hard freeze (20 degrees F or below). Trees planted in the past three years, trees that have recently gone through stress, or trees that have limited root space (in planters next to sidewalks) will need regular watering even in non-drought conditions.

Mulch

Mulch around your trees will help retain moisture and provide insulation. Use wood chips, shredded bark, leaves or evergreen needles. The free wood chip mulch available for City of Tulsa residents from the City's Green Waste site is a great option. Apply it to about 3 inches high in a ring around the tree, pulling it about 1-2 inches away from the trunk. Continue to maintain mulch depth for 2 years.

Don't fertilize trees during drought conditions.

