

HOW TO PLANT A PNPP TREE



1. PREPARE THE TREE

Take the tree out of the pot. Tip tree onto its side & gently kick side/bottom of pot to loosen soil. Have one person hold onto the pot while another person grabs & pulls from the base of the tree. Remove any twine that may be wrapped around the branches, then return the tree to a vertical position.

Find the root flare. This is where the trunk begins to widen and the first major roots begin to grow outward - it should never be buried in soil.

Cut circling roots. Using pruners or a small saw, cut roots that are growing around the root ball or the base of the trunk. While this may seem harsh, circling roots can actually hurt the tree as it grows! If there are many roots circling the root ball, make 4 vertical slices on each side of the root ball & use your fingers to loosen them.

YOU WILL NEED

- Long-handled pointed shovel
- Rake or broom
- Garden Gloves
- Hand pruners or small saw
- Closed-toe shoes & clothing you don't mind getting a little dirty!

2. DIG THE HOLE

Dig a hole in the center of the tree pit, about 1ft deep and 3ft wide.

Measure the depth of the hole and compare it to the height of the root ball (distance from the ground to the root flare). They should be equal. Add or remove soil as needed until you get the right depth.

Harden the soil by stepping inside the hole. This will prevent the tree from sagging in the future.



DID YOU KNOW? PNPP has been growing and stewarding the city's urban forest since 1989! Our work is a partnership between the *Mary Elizabeth Sharpe PNPP Fund* and the Providence Parks Department. It's really always been a team effort!



3. PLANT THE TREE

Place the tree in the hole. Lift the tree by putting at least one hand under the root ball and move the tree into the hole. If the tree is heavy, you may need two people. *Remember: hold the tree from the bottom, the weight of all the soil can harm or even kill the tree.*

Adjust the branches. Some trees have a “flattened” branch structure. If that’s the case, rotate the tree so that its main branches run parallel to the street, (instead of sticking out into the street or sidewalk).

Check that the tree is vertical. Let go of the tree & look at it from two directions to confirm that the trunk is straight. If you need to adjust it, gently tilt the tree in the direction it needs to go in and add small amounts of soil until it looks right.

Refill the tree pit. Using all the loose soil, fill the hole around the tree half-way, then pack down the soil by stomping it down. This stabilizes the tree in its place. Finish refilling the pit, but be careful not to bury the root flare. *Remember: the root flare should be level with the ground.*

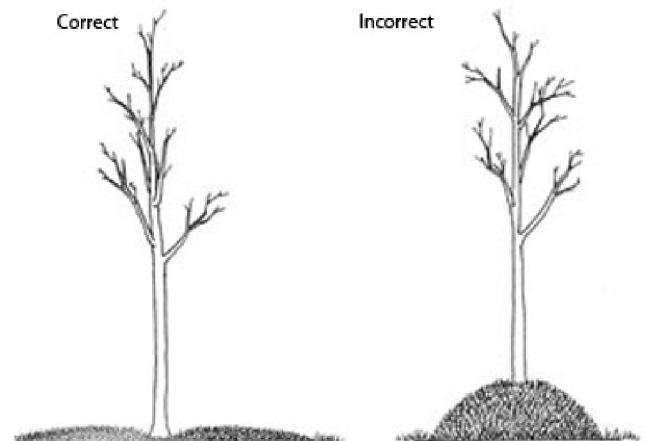
Create a “berm” using excess soil. About 1 foot away from the root flare, form a berm (a donut shape) around the tree by mounding up extra soil in a ring. *Note: if tree is on a hill, a berm is especially important on the downhill & curb side of the tree!* This keeps water directed around the roots instead of running off into the street.

4. MULCH

Using the wood chip mulch that was dropped off with your tree, cover all of the soil with a 2 to 4in layer of mulch. Pull the mulch away from the base of the tree so that it is not covering the root flare, and top off your dirt donut with the mulch.


5. WATER

Using the wood chip mulch that was dropped off with your tree, cover all of the exposed soil with a 2 to 4in layer of mulch. Pull the mulch away from the base of the tree so that it is not covering the root flare, and top off your dirt donut with the mulch.



QUESTIONS?

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