

Urban Tree Foundation's, Tree Planting Guidelines

Selection

- vigorous; thick trunk with strong taper
- preferably a single trunk

Planting

- The Hole: dig a firm, flat-bottom hole for the root ball to go into
= **prevents settling of tree later on**
- Outside the Hole: loosen soil *outside* the hole for 3 x the size of the root ball
= **encourages tree roots to grow away from the tree**
- Root Collar Placement: root collar to be level with landscape soil surface
= **trunk breathes, doesn't rot**
- Bad Root Elimination: cut all girdling (criss cross) and circling roots
= **chokes roots on top and restricts outward growth**
- Foot Tamping: "foot-pack" the backfill soil
= **minimizes air pockets so roots go into soil not "air"**
-return at 3 and 6 month intervals to repack to eliminate air holes
- Mulch Berm: create a "Mount Saint Hellen's" berm on top of the root ball
= **directs water to flow onto the root ball to retain moisture**
- Staking: secure tree with 3 stakes and flexible ties
= **allows for some tree flexing, which stimulates root growth**
- Wood Chip Mulch: apply a layer 4 inches deep beyond the root ball
= **protects moisture loss and encourages microbial soil life for enhanced root growth; promotes coolness under soil, which roots will grow toward**
= **reduces weeds and grass, which compete with the tree for nutrients and water !**
= **moreover, line trimmers are denied access to strip the bark and kill the tree**

Watering

- water 12 to 15 litres per 1 inch of trunk diameter, 2 to 3 times per week during the "growing season"
- increase volume and decrease frequency as the tree becomes established
- 2nd year, add water weekly
- 3rd year, add water bimonthly
- test moisture with a soil sampling tool and / or water device (Lee Valley has them) that warns of dry soils to at least a depth of 8 inches
- prevent the Permeant Wilt Point

Pruning

- prune out dead branches and blow out dead needles / leaves