

Steps for Planting & Staking

Remove stakes after one year.

Use two opposing, flexible ties when staking is necessary. Ties should be placed on the lower half of the tree and allow trunk movement.

Very important

Keep mulch 1 to 2 inches (2.5 to 5 cm) back from trunk

2- to 4-inch (5- to 10-cm) layer of mulch

Fruit Trees:
Graft should face north. Keep tree at same soil level as was in field. Graft should not be planted below ground.

Gently pack backfill, using water to settle soil around the root ball.

Trunk Flare



- **Locate all underground utilities prior to digging.**
- **Identify the trunk flare.** The trunk flare is where the trunk expands at the base of the tree. This point should be partially visible after the tree has been planted.
- **Dig a shallow, broad planting hole.** Holes should be 2-3 times wider than the root ball, but only as deep as the root ball. **Remove the containers or cut away the wire basket.** Inspect container tree root balls for circling roots. Straighten, cut, or remove them.
- **Place the tree at the proper height.** Take care to dig the hole to the proper depth – and no more. If the tree is planted too deep, new roots will have difficulty developing because of a lack of oxygen.
- **Straighten the tree in the hole.** Before backfilling, have someone view the tree from several directions to confirm it is straight.
- **Fill the hole gently, but firmly.** Pack soil around the base of the root ball to stabilize it. Fill the remainder of the hole, firmly packing the soil to eliminate air pockets that may dry out roots. Further reduce air pockets by watering periodically while backfilling. *Avoid fertilization at the time of planting.*
- **Stake the tree, if necessary.** Studies have shown that trees establish more quickly and develop stronger trunk and root systems if they are not staked at the time of planting. Larger canopied trees will need staking to develop roots. Remove stakes after one year
- **Mulch the base of the tree.** Mulch is organic matter spread around the base of a tree to hold moisture, moderate soil temperature extremes, and reduce grass and weed competition.
- **Provide follow-up care.** Keep the soil moist, but not water-logged. Water trees at least once a week, barring rain, and more frequently during hot, windy weather.