



CARING FOR YOUR NEW TREE

When preparing to plant:

- **Water Availability:** Is at least 10 gallons of water per tree readily available at the planting site?
- **Tree Identification:** Is the tree's identification label still attached?
- **Deglaze Hole Sides:** Have the glazed sides of the auger hole been thoroughly broken up to allow root growth?
- **Hole Depth:** Adjust the hole's depth so that the top of the root ball (where the root flare sits) will be level with the existing grade or slightly higher (no more than 1 inch).

When planting:

- **Recheck Root Flare Level:** Ensure the root flare is still level or slightly above with the surrounding grade.
- **Recheck Root Placement:** Ensure roots are spread out and not circling within the hole. Prune as necessary.
- **Initial Backfill:** Add half of the excavated soil back into the hole, breaking up any large clumps. Ensure the soil is free of grass, weeds, rocks larger than 1 inch, wood chips, and other debris.
- **First Watering:** Add 5 gallons of water as you gently agitate the soil to eliminate air pockets.
- **Vertical Alignment:** Check the tree's vertical alignment from two different angles (90 degrees apart) and adjust as needed.
- **Final Backfill:** Fill the remaining hole with the excavated soil (free of organic matter and debris), bringing the soil level up to the original grade or slightly higher.
- **Second Watering:** Water thoroughly with the remaining 5 gallons of water, ensuring the entire root zone is saturated.

Finishing:

- **Mulching:** Apply 4-5 inches of arborist wood chips in a 6-foot wide circle around the tree, completely covering the tree diaper.
- **Expose Root Flare:** Ensure the root flare remains exposed and is not covered by wood chips.

Planting Chart

