

## Remember!

- [Step by step planting guide](#) on second page (or back)
- [Video demonstrations](#) on proper planting and care available at our website: [www.treepittsburgh.org/tree-adoptions](http://www.treepittsburgh.org/tree-adoptions)
- [Plant your tree as soon as possible](#) to ensure its health and survival!
- [Water your tree!](#)
- [Install tree protection!](#)

Please contact an [ISA Certified Arborist](#) when you have further questions about, or need assistance with your private property: [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org)

# PLANNING, PLANTING, PROTECTING

*It's easy to choose, plant, and care for your tree!*

On the second page (or back) of this handout is an easy step by step visual planting guide to help you properly plant your new tree. But before you take action as a tree hero and plant, we encourage you to review these best practices to ensure your new tree will thrive!

## The Right Tree

It's important to understand the needs of your tree: 1) Mature height/spread, 2) sun/shade requirements, and 3) preferred soil types. Your tree(s) from Tree Pittsburgh are all suitable for our USDA Hardiness Zones of 6a/6b in Allegheny County. Although we provide a quick snapshot of these tree needs during pre-registration and during pick-up, you can learn more details online through the Arbor Day Foundation Tree Guide, and the Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder.

## The Right Place

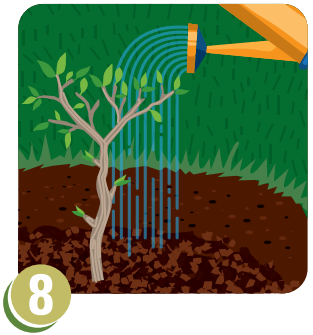
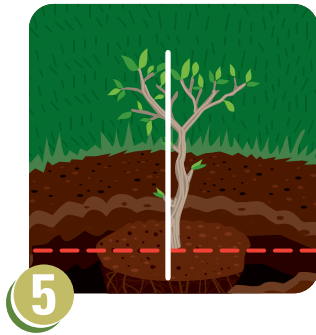
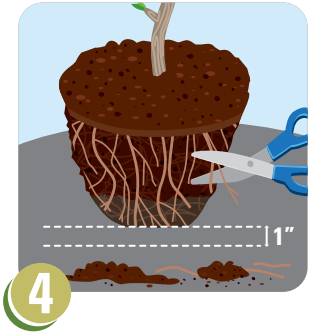
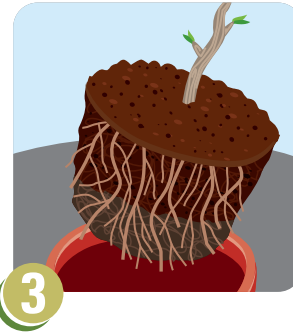
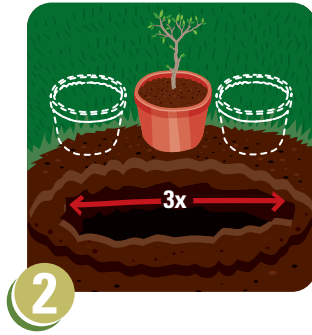
Use the above graphic to help you decide where to safely plant your tree on your property. You can easily look up to avoid powerlines and plant far enough away from a building's foundation, but to avoid underground utility conflicts call 811 at least three (3) days before you dig. These containerized trees are not intended to be planted between the sidewalk and street (it is illegal to do so). Also, they are intended to be planted in the ground (not in a pot), and they will not need fertilizer.

## Tree Care and Maintenance

Protect your tree from deer/wildlife and lawnmowers/weedwackers with 5 foot tall wire fencing, and secure the enclosed fence with a stake/pole and zip ties. Be prepared to water your tree, if the soil feels dry, between April - November. A tree with a 1/2 inch diameter needs 5 gallons of water per week. Remember to mulch. For more details about young tree care visit [treepittsburgh.org/resources](http://treepittsburgh.org/resources).



# How to Plant a Tree



1. Select a location free of overhead and underground utility conflicts with enough space for the mature size of the tree.
2. Dig a hole 2-3 times as wide as the container and as deep as the container itself.
3. Carefully remove the tree from the container. Try to keep the root ball intact.
4. Gently loosen up the outer roots and ensure that they will grow outward. Use scissors/pruners to cut any roots along the side of the root ball. Cut off the bottom 1" of the root ball.
5. Place the tree in the pre-dug hole. Keep the tree trunk at ground level when planted. Step back and make sure the tree is straight.
6. Begin to backfill with soil around the root ball. Fill the hole about halfway and lightly tamp down the soil to remove large air pockets. Continue to backfill and lightly tamp down until the entire hole has been filled.
7. Keep the mulch at least 2" away from the base of the tree, add a 2-3" thick ring of mulch around the tree about 3 feet in diameter.
8. Water your tree around the root ball every week during the growing months (April- November).

*Thank you for planting a tree!*



Your tree was grown in our Heritage Nursery on the Allegheny River. At Tree Pittsburgh, we're dedicated to growing and protecting our urban forest through tree planting and care, education, and advocacy. **To get involved with Tree Pittsburgh or for more information, visit our website at [treepittsburgh.org](http://treepittsburgh.org).**



**VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

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**SHARE YOUR TREE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**  
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