

Reep Green Solutions is an environmental charity focused on home energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction and healthy yards.

EDUCATION & STEWARDSHIP



Reep Green Solutions offers workshops and other educational opportunities to participate in stewardship throughout our community.

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Supported by:



PLANTING & CARE GUIDE

REEPGREEN.CA/TREES

BACKYARD TREE PLANTING PROGRAM



HOW TO PLANT YOUR TREE OR SHRUB

CHECK BEFORE YOU DIG!

SAFETY FIRST!

Contact Ontario1Call before planting your tree to find out where utility lines are buried in your yard.

www.on1call.com

LEAF-Y TIP:

Lift the corners of the tarp and use it as a funnel to pour dirt back into the planting hole

Remove all tags and ties before planting

PRESS LIGHTLY - DO NOT STOMP

GENTLY LOOSEN ROOTS

LIFT BY ROOT BALL - NOT BY STEM

KEEP MULCH AWAY FROM TRUNK

1. Lay down a tarp next to the location where you want to plant your tree. Dig a hole two to three times as wide as the pot or root ball and the same depth. Place the soil from the planting hole on the tarp.

2. Remove all tree tags and ties. Remove all potting materials and gently loosen the outer roots of the root ball to encourage growth and prevent girdling. Rough up the sides of the planting hole with the blade of your shovel.

3. Lift the tree up by the root ball and place it straight in the hole so the top of the root ball is at the same level as the ground. If you are planting in a dense, clay soil, plant the tree slightly shallower.

4. Carefully break up the soil chunks on the tarp and start refilling the hole with the original soil. While backfilling, tamp the soil lightly around the root ball to stabilize the

tree and minimize air pockets. Use any excess soil to create a thin doughnut shape around the tree, making sure the soil does not pile up against the trunk.

5. Add a layer of natural mulch (un-dyed woodchips, leaves or similar organic material), approximately 8cm thick and as far out as possible, in a doughnut shape around the base of the tree.

6. Water slowly and deeply after planting (give approximately 6 gallons) using one of the following methods:



HOSE ON SLOW TRICKLE: 15 MINUTES



3 WATERING CANS

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR NEW TREE OR SHRUB

Proper watering & mulching makes a huge difference in the health of your tree! Give it the best life you can with these tips!

WATERING

Q: HOW DO I KNOW IF MY TREE NEEDS WATERING?

A: Stick your finger into the soil under the mulch. If the ground feels dry, it's time to water! Overwatering can harm your tree, so if the ground feels moist and cool, wait and check again tomorrow.

Q: HOW MUCH WATER SHOULD I GIVE MY TREE?

A: Young trees should get about 6 gallons each time you water, which equals:



3 WATERING CANS



HOSE, NO NOZZLE, ON SLOW TRICKLE FOR 15 MINUTES

RAIN IS NOT ENOUGH!

Most rainwater does not saturate the soil deeply enough to quench your tree's thirst. Trees are living organisms and need to get adequate water to survive - just like a pet!

EXPECT TO WATER TWICE WEEKLY*



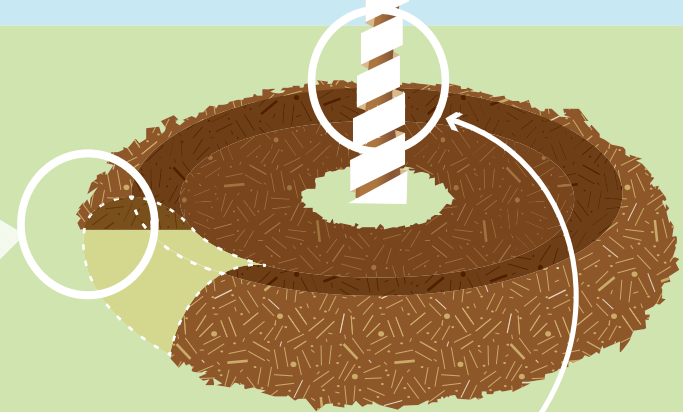
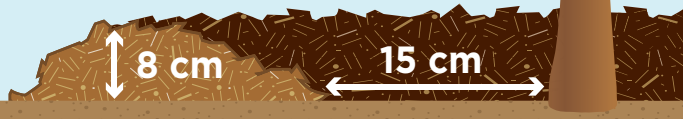
*will vary based on soil type & drainage - be sure to check under the mulch before watering!



MULCHING

Apply natural mulch (**undyed** wood chips, leaves, or similar organic material) in a doughnut shape around the base of the tree, to improve soil and prevent lawnmower damage. **NEVER** allow mulch to pile up against the trunk—this can promote moisture build-up and rot the base of your tree.

Replenish mulch at least once a year. Twice a year is ideal!



Add a tree guard if your tree is at risk of animal damage over the winter

EXTRA TREE-L-C

Q: DOES MY TREE NEED A TREE GUARD?

A: Only if animals cause a problem.

If you have animals in your yard, place a retractable and breathable plastic tree guard or wire mesh enclosure around your tree for protection over the winter. Remove all guards in early spring to avoid moisture build up and rot along the trunk.

Q: DOES MY NEW TREE NEED PRUNING?

A: Probably not!

Trees should almost never be pruned in the first 3 years after planting. Poor pruning can create lasting damage, so call LEAF or an ISA certified arborist before making any cuts!

Pruning should **NEVER** be used as a way to keep a large-growing tree small!

After 3-5 years, structural pruning can help achieve proper form and minimize future problems.

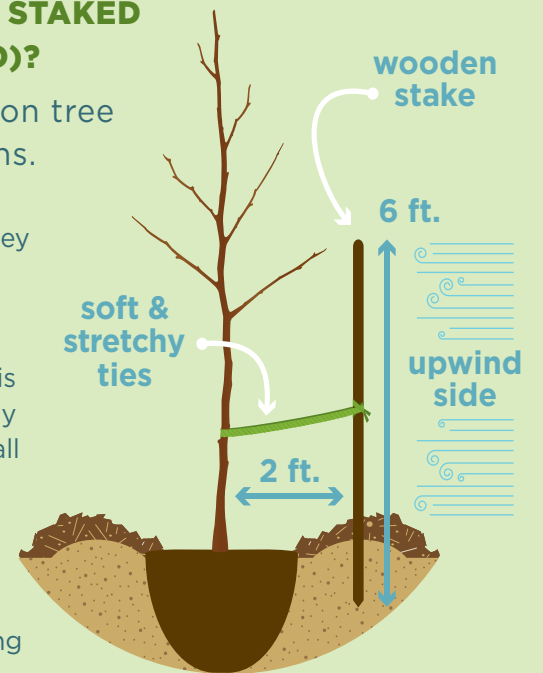
LEARN ABOUT LEAF'S MAINTENANCE PACKAGES BY VISITING WWW.YOURLEAF.ORG

Q: WHY IS MY TREE STAKED (OR NOT STAKED)?

A: Staking depends on tree and site conditions.

Trees are naturally strengthened when they move in the wind. We stake our trees on the upwind side only if necessary (e.g. a tree is planted in a very windy location or the root ball is not large enough to stabilize the tree).

Remove all stakes and ties after one year to avoid damaging your tree!



HOW TO PROPERLY STAKE A 5'—8' TREE

ANNUAL TREE CARE



WATER TREE(S)



REFRESH MULCH



PLACE TREE GUARD

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			SPRING THAW						HARD FREEZE		

KEEP YOUR TREE SAFE! NEVER:

- ✗ use chemical/synthetic lawn fertilizers and pesticides
- ✗ mow, till, or use a weed whacker around tree base
- ✗ pile materials against or under your tree
- ✗ tie or nail things to your tree
- ✗ use a sprinkler to water your tree
- ✗ compact the soil around the base of your tree (eg. construction, paving, grading, driving, etc.)
- ✗ use de-icing salts near your tree