How to Plant Your Tree
Trees Shade Your Home

Plant on the west and northwest to provide mid-to-late afternoon shade in most locations.

Shade east and west windows, but prune lower branches to prevent blocking the view.

Plant shade trees over patios, driveways, and air-conditioning units.

Leaf Area

Tree Size

Benefits
Recommended Distance from Hardscape

- 10 ft. in general
- 12 ft. from pools
Root Barrier

Deep root

Plastic Barrier
Remove Grass or Sod

- Scrape all sod off soil using a shovel:
  - 4 ft circle or square

- Discard sod
Dig a hole
Shallow and Wide

- Dig the hole only as deep as the root ball.
- Remove the soil and place on tarp
- Hole should be 3 feet in diameter, either round or square

No Soil Amendments are Necessary
Pull Tree from the Bucket

- Put tree on its side; be careful not break limbs
- Push gently on bucket & roll
- Carefully remove root ball and put on pedestal
Tease the Roots

- Cut roots thicker than 1/4 inch that circle the root ball
- “Tease out” smaller roots to enable them to spread when planted
- Loosen roots on bottom of root ball and replace on pedestal
Measure Tree Depth

- Score Sides of Hole
- Place stake across hole with widest part vertical
- Top of root ball should be level with top of stake (sandy soils),
  OR should be 1 1/2 inches above soil level (clay soils)
Backfill the Hole

- Return soil to hole
- Do **Not** put sod back in the hole
- Do **Not** add amendments and
- Do **Not** tamp down soil with your feet – leave it loose

No Soil Amendments are Necessary
Remove the Nursery Stake!
Stake the Tree

- Screw the stake in 14-16 inches away from the tree
- Tie bar goes 2/3 up the tree – follow instructions on packet
- Return stake to city for re-use after tree is standing on its own

Place stake on the side the wind comes from
When do I Remove the Stake?

- Do Not let the stakes become crutches!
- Remove the stakes as soon as tree can stand on its own, usually within 2 growing seasons
Mulch the Tree

- Place mulch (coarse wood chips) on top of the soil under your tree
- Keep mulch 3 inches from trunk
- Place mulch 4 to 6 inches deep

Keeping the grass and weeds away from the base of your tree will increase the growth rate by as much as 50% and will help prevent weed eater damage
Water the Tree

- Check 9 inches deep for soil moisture and if dry:
- Place hose on top of exposed root ball
- Turn hose on at the slowest drip rate
- Water the root ball and surrounding soil overnight, or all day, at the slowest drip rate...weekly

Too much water will kill your tree due to lack of oxygen
Do not use near your tree.
Learn to Prune Young Trees

Sat. - January 10th
9 to 11:30 a.m.
Roland Hensley Park
Thank you!

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