

You're a Green Square Mile tree recipient, congratulations!

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If not planting your tree immediately, follow these tips:

- On the site, store your tree upright (always in the shade), and water twice daily with two gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter until ready to plant.
- Trees should never be lifted by the trunk.

2

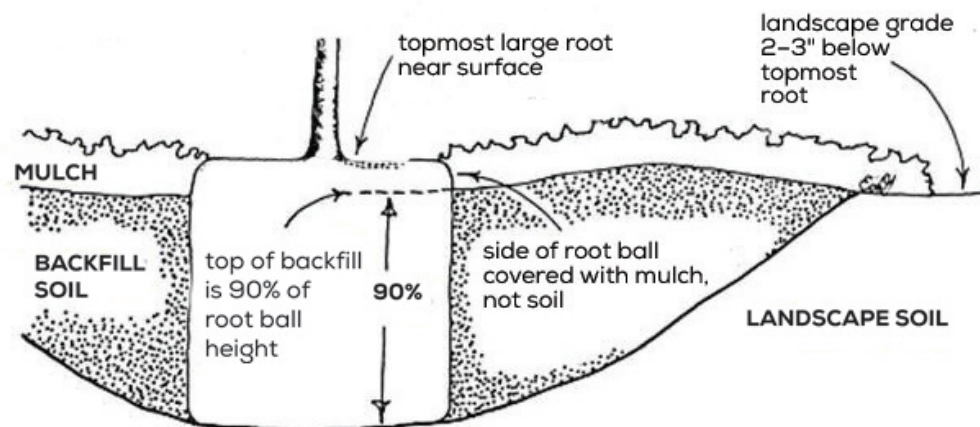
Choosing the site.

- Before you dig, call **811** (or **1-800-721-7877**) or visit **sc811.com** to request that the approximate location of buried utilities be marked with paint or flags so that you don't unintentionally dig into an underground utility line.
- Choose a site clear of overhead wires, signs, buildings, other trees, etc. Make sure you have room for the size tree you are planting, as the tree grows, it needs to have room to spread.
- Make sure the soil moisture and sunlight at the site are appropriate for the tree species you are choosing.

3

Prepare the planting hole.

- Prepare the planting hole twice as wide as the rootball and slightly less than the depth of the rootball.
- Dig the planting hole even shallower in areas with wet soil conditions.
- The first root emerging from the trunk should NEVER end up below the soil level.



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Prepare the tree.

- Remove the container and any other man-made materials that might be present. Remove any soil of the root ball that is above the topmost root.
- Straighten out or cut any circling roots prior to planting; roots need to go out from the tree, not around it.

5

Plant the tree.

- Place the tree in the center of the hole with the top most root in the rootball at or slightly higher than the finished landscape grade. If the tree sits too low, remove it and add soil to the bottom of the hole, compacting it well, before returning the tree to the hole.
- Check to ensure the tree is straight in the hole, and begin filling in with the soil you removed to dig the hole.
- Water in the backfill as you fill the planting hole, gently working the soil by hand to ensure that no air pockets remain.

6

Finish planting the tree.

- Mulch your tree. The minimum mulch diameter recommended is an 8' diameter circle. Do not apply mulch near the trunk, nor on top of the root ball.
- At planting, water the tree with five gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter, applied slowly so that it soaks into the root ball.

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Keeping your tree healthy and happy.

- When you water, apply 2–3 gallons per inch of trunk diameter.
- In South Carolina, it takes a tree approximately 6 months for every inch of trunk diameter to establish a fully functional root system after planting.
- To maximize your tree's odds of survival, check the soil moisture daily, and water if the soil is dry at 1" deep. Plan on watering twice weekly through the end of the tree's first summer (for fall & winter plantings). Trees planted in spring and summer may require regular waterings for more than a year. Well-draining soils will require more frequent watering than clayey soils. When it's hot and dry, a new tree might require water daily.
- Increase the diameter of the mulch circle as the tree grows, being sure to keep weeds and grass from growing in it.

Important Planting Notes

- **The best soil amendment for successful planting is water.** Research has shown no benefit to using other soil amendments.
- **Place no soil over the rootball at planting. Deep planting kills trees.**
- **Quality trees should not need staking except in extremely windy sites.**
- **The best time to plant a tree in SC is in the fall.** Second best is in the winter. Trees planted in spring and summer are much less likely to survive their first year. If someone gives you a tree in the summer, plant it in the ground as soon as possible, but wait until fall to shop for trees.