

Plant A Tree

CHOOSE YOUR SITE CAREFULLY.

Look up, around and down. The tree you plant today could eventually reach 40 to 100 feet (12 to 30 meters) in height (depending on the tree type). Give your tree plenty of room – its roots will grow wide and deep. Plant it well away from buildings and power lines, so that it won't do any damage, or need disfiguring or harmful pruning later in its life. Plant the tree where its roots will not grow into sewers and pipelines, or under driveways and sidewalks.

Look at the tree. Make sure it's suited to the environment you are planting it in, so that it has the best chance of surviving.

TAKE CARE BEFORE AND DURING PLANTING

Keep the tree cool and shaded, and keep its roots moist until planting. During planting, try not to handle the tree's roots. Tamp the dirt firmly, but don't pack it too tightly or the roots won't be able to either reach out for water and nutrients, or anchor the tree. Soak the soil around the tree with water to encourage deep rooting. *If you are planting a sapling,* dig a hole twice as wide and as deep as the root ball. Build a mound of soil and place the sapling on top of the mound so that it is two inches (five cm) above the hole's bottom. If the roots are wrapped, remove the burlap. Fill the hole with dirt, tamping it down with your foot and wetting it with water as you fill the hole. *If you are planting a seedling,* dig a hole a little deeper than the roots' length. Fill the hole around the seedling with dirt. Then gently pull the trunk of the seedling up slightly to straighten out the roots.

GIVE SPECIAL CARE DURING THE EARLY, DEVELOPMENTAL YEARS

A tree is most vulnerable during the first years of its life. Protect it from pests and animals. Water it frequently. Then sit back and enjoy! If cared for properly, each tree you plant will grow and flourish, providing you and all of us with benefits and beauty for generations.