

# Things to Know When Planting a Tree.

## Call Before You Dig

Several days before planting, call the national 811 hotline to confirm where underground utilities are located.

## Handle With Care

Always lift the tree by the rootball, never by the trunk. Keeps roots moist until planted.

## Digging the Planting Hole

Dig the hole 2-5 times wider than the diameter of the rootball. Slope the sides of the planting hole to allow proper root growth.

## Once Planted, Properly Prune

Prune any broken branches outside the branch collar\* as well as any branches that rub against each other.

**Note:** never remove more than 1/3 of the branch canopy.

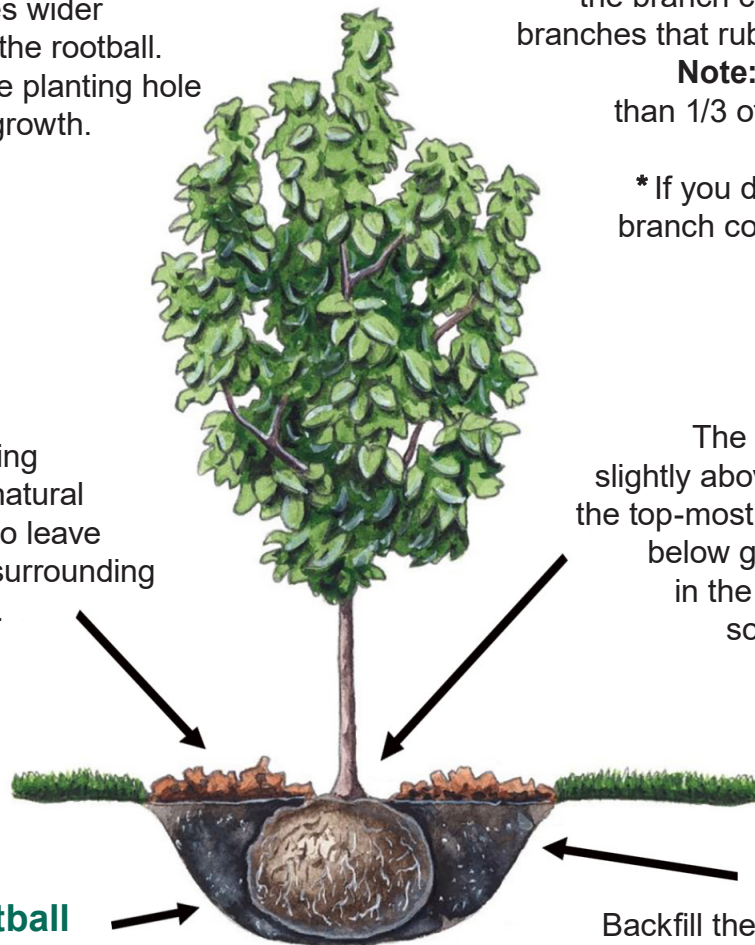
\* If you don't know where the branch collar is, **Don't Prune!**

## Mulch

Cover the filled planting hole with 2" to 3" of natural mulch, making sure to leave a 3"-diameter circle surrounding the trunk unmulched.

## Planting Depth

The trunk flare should sit slightly above ground level, with the top-most roots buried 1" to 2" below grade. Sit the rootball in the hole on undisturbed soil to prevent settling.



## Unwrap the Rootball

Remove all of the burlap and cut away the metal cage and all twine that's holding the rootball together.

## Filling the Hole

Backfill the hole with native soil (unless it is all clay). Compact the soil in layers around the rootball as it is being planted. Watering in between compacted layers helps alleviate transplant shock.

For more tree-planting tips and information, visit [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

Source:  [Arbor Day Foundation](http://www.arborday.org)