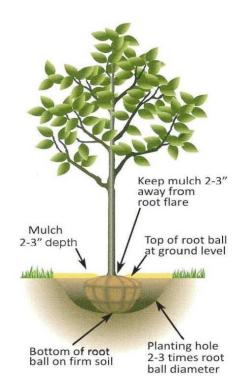


## **Planting and Caring For Trees**

## **Tree Planting Instructions:**

- 1. Select the right tree for the right location.
- 2. Keep large tree species at least 10 feet away from structures, 25 feet away from overhead utility lines, and 3 feet from sidewalks and walkways. Be mindful of how wide the crown of your tree will be at maturity.
- 3. Avoid all utility lines both overhead and underground.
- 4. Dig a hole twice as wide at the root ball but not deeper.
- 5. Using your hand or a trowel; gently loosen the outside of the root ball to help provide good root contact with the soil.
- 6. Place top of root flare level with natural soil line. Do not plant too deep or too high.
- 7. Backfill halfway with original soil and water in thoroughly.
- 8. Backfill the rest of the original soil and water in thoroughly.
- 9. Mulch with wood chips: 2-3 foot radius, 2-3 inches deep, but keep 2-3 inches away from trunk.



## **Tree Care:**

- 1. Be a good tree steward. Proper tree care is critical to your tree's survival, particularly in its first year.
- 2. Give your tree a good watering immediately after planting.
- 3. Water your tree once a week during normal weather conditions, and twice a week during dry spells. Provide 5 or so gallons, applied slowly.
- 4. Keep the base mulched at a depth of 2-3" to keep weeds down and hold in moisture. Avoid any contact with weed eaters, mowers, or tools of any kind.
- 5. Your tree should not need pruning until after 5 or so years, at which time you should seek help from a qualified arborist.
- 6. Celebrate! Congratulations on your new family addition your tree will give you and your family a lifetime of great pleasure. Consider honoring a family member or friend by naming your tree. And, thank you for adding to Charlotte's outstanding tree canopy!

Visit www.TreesCharlotte.org for more tree care hints.

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