

TREE PLANTING TIPS



Ready to add some shade and beauty to your yard? Planting a tree is a rewarding experience, but choosing the right spot and planting it correctly are key to its future health. This guide will walk you through the process!

PICK THE RIGHT TREE

Before you pick out a tree, here are a few things to think about:

- **Leaves or needles?** Do you prefer trees that lose their leaves in the fall (deciduous) or stay green all year (coniferous)?
- **Native or newcomer?** Native trees are usually better adapted to local conditions.
- **Pretty flowers?** Want a tree with colorful blooms?
- **Noise buffer?** Need a tree to block out noise from the street? A dense evergreen conifer might be perfect.

Ask the experts at your local nursery for more advice!

FIND THE RIGHT SPOT

Here are some things to keep in mind before digging in the dirt:

- **Think about the mature size of the tree.** Avoid planting too close to your house, power lines, or other structures.
- **Consider sun exposure.** Does your tree need full sun, partial shade, or full shade?
- **Call before you dig!** Dial 8-1-1 at least two days before digging to avoid hitting underground utilities.
- **See if you need a permit.** Before planting near a road or sidewalk, check if you need a free Street Tree Permit at cob.org/street-trees.

MORE TREE PLANTING TIPS

PLANT IT RIGHT

1. **Dig a roomy hole.** Aim for a bowl-shaped hole as deep as the root ball and 2-3 times wider than the root ball.
2. **Free the tree from its container.** Gently remove the tree from its pot or wrapping.
3. **Position the tree correctly.** Place the tree in the hole so the root collar (where the trunk meets the roots) sits level with the surrounding soil.
4. **Settle and loosen the roots.** Carefully loosen any circling roots and gently massage the sides of the root ball to encourage them to spread outward.
5. **Fill the hole and water deeply.** Tuck the soil around the roots and gently pat the soil to remove large air pockets. Water the tree thoroughly at its base, soaking the surrounding soil.

TREE CARE, DONE RIGHT

- **Water regularly, especially during the first year.** Water deeply when the top few inches of soil feel dry to the touch.
- **Avoid overwatering.** Soggy soil can damage roots.

To find more tree planting information and other resources, visit **cob.org/trees** or scan:

