

TREE AND SHRUB PLANTING STEPS

One of the best ways to ensure a successful tree or shrub is to follow smart planting techniques. Here are the steps to plant a tree and help it thrive for generations:

Step 1: Dig the hole.

The hole should be wide and saucer-shaped, and only as deep as the root ball. Remove any extra soil off the top of the root ball to estimate the right depth.

Step 2: Plant the tree or shrub.

Place the rootball in the hole, firm the soil around the base, and replace with the original soil. You don't need to add anything to the backfill. Water to settle the soil and fine-tune the grade. Avoid stepping on the soil to firm it down.

Step 3: Mulch:

Place mulch from the edge of the rootball outwards. Don't put mulch up against the trunk. Stake the tree if it's a windy area.

Step 4: Check water regularly.

Water 1-2 gallons per inch of trunk diameter several times per week. Water 1-2 times per month from November to April. Wait two years to fertilize.

Additional Resources:

- Visit the Conservation and Environmental Center at 2855 Mesa Road, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for expert tips and information.
- Visit the Colorado State University Extension at <http://cmg.colostate.edu> for detailed planting instructions.

Learn more at csu.org

