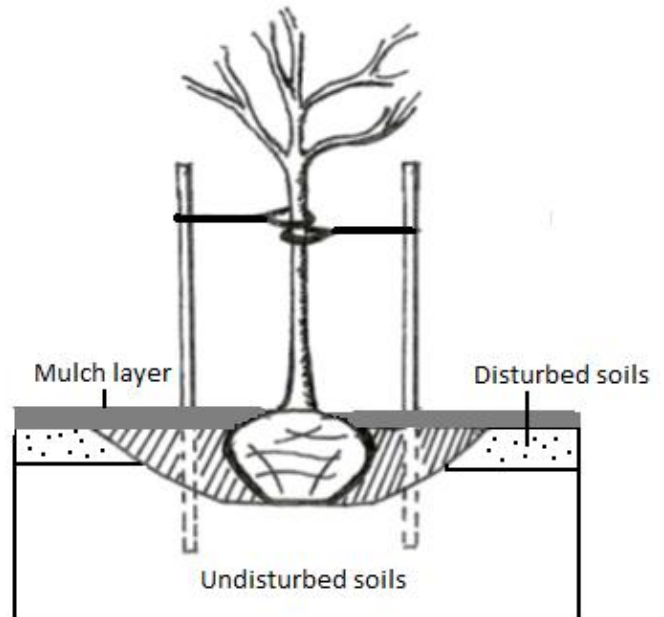
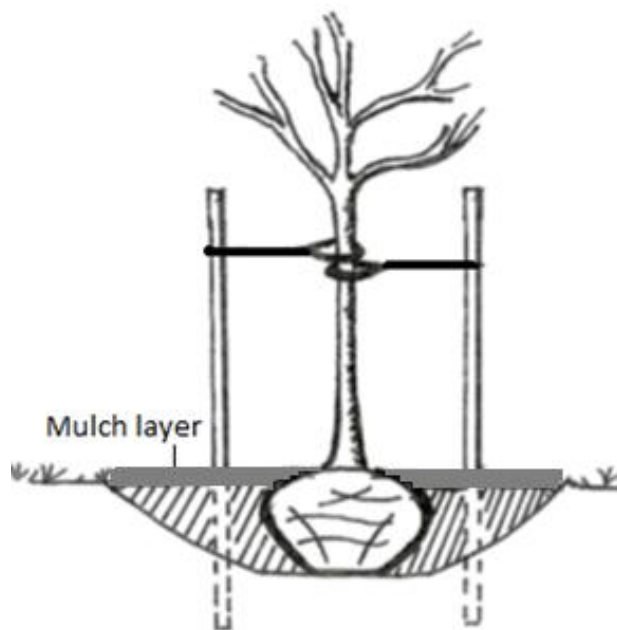


# BALTIMORE CITY TREE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Whenever possible, plant trees between March 1 thru May 15 or October 1 thru December 15. Ask for nursery stock that has met the “American Standard for nursery stock [ANSI Z60.1-2004].”

**OPEN GROUND** (school/park/median/ etc.): Dig hole no less than 2-3 times diameter of root ball, no deeper than root ball height, and tapered as shown.

**SIDEWALK CUTOUT**: Dig hole as in “open ground”. Loosen soil throughout the entire cutout to the depth of 6 inches. Remove large stones and foreign material. Amend the soil in the hole with 1 cubic foot of organic matter.



**FOR ALL TREES:** Scarify sides of hole. Plant 1/8 of root ball above existing grade. Do not plant in saturated soil.

**FOR CONTAINER-GROWN TREES:** Loosen and/or pull apart exterior roots. Uncover root flare.

**FOR BALLED & BURLAPPED TREES:** After placing the tree in the hole, cut off at least top 1/2 of wire baskets, remove burlap, and uncover root flare.

**WATER:** Soak both the root ball and the backfill with water. Add additional backfill as needed.

**BERM:** Recycle excess soil or sod by creating a berm with sod side down around the hole to contain and direct water to the root ball.

**MULCH:** Apply a 2 to 3 inch layer of mulch in a circular pattern surrounding the tree. Keep mulch away from trunk to allow the tree to breath.

**SUPPORT:** Attach poly “chain lock” or straps between trees and two 2” x 2” stakes extending 4 feet above ground and 2 feet below.

**PRUNE:** Remove only dead and/or broken branches upon planting.

**GUARD:** Use a plastic tree guard around the base of the trunk to protect against mower damage.

### **MAINTENANCE, YEARS ONE THROUGH THREE**

**WATER** from late spring thru early fall when the top few inches of soil are dry to the touch. This may be weekly or bi-weekly depending upon weather and soil drainage. Soak entire root ball and surrounding soil. Hand watering is best, “TreeGator bags” are second-best.

**MULCH** regularly to maintain a depth of 2 inches. Do not pile mulch against the trunk, keep root flare exposed.

**STRAIGHTEN** and re-stake the tree as needed. Usually, stakes should be removed within one year.

**REMOVE WEEDS** not less than monthly throughout the tree pit or mulched basin.

Contact your neighborhood TreeKeeper or our TreeBaltimore partners for guidance on pruning dead limbs, criss-crossing branches, low limbs and “suckers” that may develop.



**TreeBaltimore**

Growing Baltimore's tree canopy  
one tree at a time.