GLOBAL TREE INITIATIVE

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PLANTING THE RIGHT WAY

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Plant your tree
Grow our forest
Save their future

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Digging a proper hole

First: Dig a hole that is two to three times wider than the actual root ball. This will ensure that the roots have enough room to flourish outward and receive ample amounts of nutrients, oxygen and water.

The depth of the hole should be the same length as the actual root ball. Digging the hole too deep can cause the root ball to sink too low. Eventually, this can lead to soil build up and potentially create a space for diseases to enter the roots.

Container Grown

1. Loosen the root ball from the plastic pot by massaging the outside of the container. Tap the outside of the pot and gently pull the roots upward. Try not to pull on the trunk, as this can separate the root from the tree.

2. Next, use your fingers to loosen the roots on the outside of the root ball. Cut out circling roots by using a sharp knife. Make long cuts from the top of the root ball to the bottom, in each of the four cardinal directions. Add a small amount of water into the hole and place the tree inside.

See next: Backfilling and After Care
Planting a Balled & Burlapped Tree

1. Set the balled tree next to the hole. Untie the strings and remove any wire that may be wrapped around the roots. (Leave the bag sitting underneath the roots temporarily. Later, you can use the bag to pick up and place the tree into the hole.)

2. Prepare the mud by applying a small amount of water and backfill to the hole. This will help stabilize the tree in the following step.

3. Gently lift the tree using the burlap bag and lower it into the center of the hole. Rock the tree gently to one side, enabling you to pull out the burlap bag from the bottom of the tree.

**Backfilling the hole & watering**

Completely soak the tree roots and fill the hole with water. Allow the water to soak into the soil. Start backfilling the hole to further stabilize the tree. At this stage, you can also add organic dry compost to feed the soil. Tap and gently press the soil down into the root system to avoid air pockets, but not so hard as to heavily compact the soil.
**Mulching**

Stabilize and straighten the tree. Break up any soil clods and continue filling the hole until the backfill is leveled with the surrounding ground.

Spread organic mulch around the surrounding tree area, at least 3 feet or 1 meter around the entire space.

Remember to keep the mulch about 5 inches or 13 centimeters away from the trunk. This will prevent fungus growth around the trunk and lessen the opportunity for insects or small mammals to burrow in the roots.

The recommended depth of mulch on average is about 4 inches or 10 centimeters. Putting mulch around the tree helps to lock in moisture and keeps the roots well preserved in hotter weather.

Plastic sheeting or other impervious weed barriers are not recommended under the mulch because it traps moisture and restricts water flow.

Mulch does decompose over time bringing many benefits to the soil, however that creates the need to replace the mulch from time to time.

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Bare Root Tree
Exposed roots are more delicate than the roots of a tree that comes in a container or burlapped. The advantage of bare-root plants is that they allow complete inspection of the roots before planting.

Keep the bare-roots damp and moist. Fully soak the roots in water overnight before planting the tree into the ground.

How to plant a bare-root tree:

- Dig a hole that is two to three times wider than the actual bare root ball.
- The depth of the hole should be the same length as the bare root.
- Digging the hole too deep can cause the root ball to sink too low. The top of the root should be leveled with the surrounding ground.
- Once the tree is in the hole, completely soak the tree roots and fill the hole with water. Allow the water to soak into the soil.
- Start backfilling the hole to stabilize the tree. Break up any soil clods and continue filling. At this stage, you can also add organic dry compost to feed the soil.
- Tap and gently press the soil down into the root system to avoid air pockets, but not so hard as to heavily compact the soil.
- Finish backfilling the hole. Make a soil berm with the mulch, that will help retain the water over the roots.
- Bare-root plants experience more shock because they have been out of the soil and will require more frequent watering after planting.