

NAME _____ DATE _____

Choose Your Site Wisely

The tree you plant today could eventually reach 40–100 feet (12–30 meters) in height, depending on its species.

- When choosing a site, look up, around, and down to make sure there will be room for your tree. Plant the tree where its roots will not grow into sewers and pipelines, or under driveways and sidewalks.
- Plant your tree well away from buildings and power lines, so that it won't do any damage or need pruning later in its life.

Planting Your Tree

As you prepare the site for planting, keep the tree cool and shaded. Try not to handle the exposed roots during planting, and keep them moist.

If you're planting a sapling (1–4 inches in diameter):

- Dig a hole twice as wide and as deep as the root ball.
- Build a mound of soil and place the sapling on top of the mound so that it is 2 inches (5 cm) above the hole's bottom.
- If the roots are wrapped, remove the burlap.
- Fill the hole with soil, tamping it down with your foot and wetting it with water.
- Soak the soil around the tree with water to encourage deep rooting.

If you're planting a seedling (less than 1 inch in diameter):

- Dig a hole a little deeper than the roots are long.
- Fill the hole around the seedling with dirt.
- Gently pull the trunk of the seedling up slightly to straighten the roots. Tamp the soil firmly, but not too tightly, or the roots won't be able to collect appropriate amounts of water and nutrients.
- Soak the soil around the tree with water to encourage deep rooting.

Giving TLC

A tree is most vulnerable during the first years of its life, and during this time it requires TLC (tender loving care) from friends and stewards.

- Protect your tree from pests and animals. You could put a plastic or mesh tree guard around it to keep animals from chewing the bark.
- Water it as appropriate for the tree type.
- Add a 3- to 4-inch (8 to 10 cm) layer of mulch around the base of the tree to help keep the soil moist and improve soil aeration (mulch should not touch trunk).

Then sit back and enjoy! If it is cared for properly, each tree you plant will flourish, providing you—and all of us—with benefits and beauty for many years.



CAREER CORNER

TREE NURSERY TECHNICIANS are plant experts who grow and care for trees, either for sale or for planting on public lands. They may water, prune, and weed young trees and maintain a database to track the trees.

I LOVE MY
GREEN JOB!