

## Watering and after care

Now that your tree is planted, it will go through a time called the ‘establishment period.’ It is the length of time required for a tree to re-grow a root system. The larger the tree at planting, the longer the ‘establishment period’ will be.

Diam.	‘Establishment Period’
1”	5 - 7 months
2”	10 - 15 months
3”	16 - 23 months
4”	21 - 30 months

During this period, the tree is most limited by the lack of water. Keep an eye on the amount of rain that waters your tree, and provide supplemental watering if needed. You can figure that 1” of rain equals approximately 5 gallons of water.

*Apply 2-3 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter (on root ball).*

### Watering Schedule

Tree Diam.	Best	Minimum
< 2”	Daily: 2 weeks Every Other Day: 2 months Weekly: until established	Twice Weekly for 2-3 months
2” – 4”	Daily: 4 weeks Every Other Day: 3 months Weekly: until established	Twice Weekly for 3-4 months
> 4”	Daily: 6 weeks Every Other Day: 5 months Weekly: until established	Twice Weekly for 4-5 months

Remove any broken or dead branches. Eliminate double leaders so your tree has only one main central stem. Look at the branch spacing, both around and vertically. Over the next four years, gradually remove temporary branches.

## Services provided by Hot Springs Urban Forestry

### Public Rights-of-Way

- Tree Planting
- Tree Pruning
- Tree Removal
- Bush Hogging
- Watering
- Fertilizing
- Mulching
- Inspection
- Inventory

### Private Property Requests

- Tree Inspections
- Insect/Disease Diagnosis
- Tree Related Questions

## Contact information



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## URBAN FORESTRY HOW-TO SERIES



# HOW TO PLANT TREES



**City of Hot Springs**  
**Urban Forestry Division**

## What to plant

Before picking out what kind of tree to plant, ask yourself: *What is the purpose: shade, flowers, screening? How big is the area in which I want to plant the tree? How large (tall and wide) will the tree be when it matures? Does it have enough room to grow? Am I providing enough room for the roots to grow and supply a mature tree? Are there overhead wires or underground utilities?* Answering these questions will narrow down the list of possible trees that will work for you.

### Small Trees (Height)

Blackhaw (18')	Crape Myrtle (20')
Fringetree (20')	Amur Maple (20')
Wax-Myrtle (20')	

### Medium Trees (Height)

Japanese Cherry (25')	Flowering Dogwood (30')
Chinese Elm (40')	Goldenraintree (40')
Hawthorn (25')	American Holly (40')
Yaupon Holly (25')	Amer. Hornbeam (30')
Hophornbeam (40')	Sweetbay Magnolia (40')
Saucer Magnolia (30')	Japanese Maple (25')
Purpleleaf Plum (25')	Eastern Redbud (30')
Sassafras (40')	Serviceberry (25')

### Large Trees (Height)

Black Gum (80')	River Birch (80')
Baldcypress (100')	Leyland Cypress (80')
Ginkgo (100')	Hackberry (100')
Hickory (90')	Honeylocust (75')
Basswood (100')	Red Maple (60')
Sugar Maple (100')	Bur Oak (80')
Chinkapin Oak (60')	Northern Red Oak (70')
Pin Oak (65')	Southern Red Oak (100')
Sawtooth Oak (50')	Post Oak (75')
Willow Oak (90')	Water Oak (100')
Shortleaf Pine (100')	Loblolly Pine (90')
Sycamore (100')	London Planetree (100')
Zelkova (80')	Tuliptree (80')

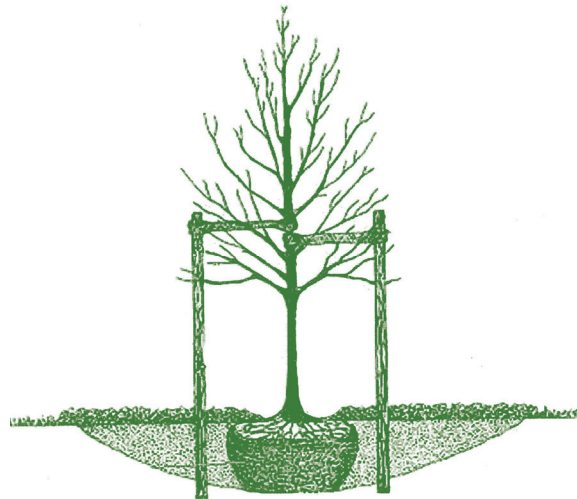
## How to plant

Prepare the hole by digging it 8" - 10" wider on all sides than the root ball. The sides can slope towards the base of the root ball. Break up the sides of the hole so roots can penetrate in to the surrounding soil. The top of the root ball should be even with or 10% above the landscape soil. To prevent settling, the root ball must be supported by undisturbed soil.

### Steps for planting a tree

1. Remove the wire basket or plastic pot.
2. Set tree in the hole and straighten.
3. Cut twine and peel back burlap.
4. Fill 1/3 and tamp down. Repeat.
5. Check depth and straightness.
6. Water the tree.

*Important note: Roots that circle around the hole rather than grow in an outward direction are called girdling roots. They can choke a tree as they grow in size and should be properly positioned or removed.*



## When to plant

In our region (zones 7-8) where soil does not freeze for extended periods, trees are planted **year-round**. Soil temperatures are usually warm enough for root growth in winter.

Trees planted in the **fall** can establish roots into the landscape soil before warm summer temperatures draw moisture from the trees and stress them.

Trees planted in the **spring** will have few roots out into the soil when summer temperatures arrive soon after planting. You must commit to a watering schedule.

Plant a **\$50** tree  
in a **\$100** hole!



## Staking and mulching

Staking should only be used in high wind areas or if the root ball is loose. There needs to be a little 'play' in the straps because movement actually strengthens the tree. If wire is used, run it through a short section of old garden hose to prevent damaging the tree bark. The stakes should be removed after the first growing season.

Mulch helps keep moisture in the soil. It should be applied in a layer only 2"-3" deep. Pull the mulch away from the trunk of the tree. This will prevent decay from getting a foothold. Expand the mulch ring outward as the roots grow. Weed trimmers damage and kill trees if mulch is not replenished each year!