

Sacramento Shade Tree Planting Guide

Plant your tree as soon as possible

Prepare the Planting Hole

- Shave and discard grass and weeds in a 4' area. Dig down 8 to 10" and 4' wide. Dig down an additional 8" around the edge to create a solid 12" wide pedestal in the center. Score the sides of the hole so it is not smooth.

Plant High

- Thoroughly loosen and extend roots. Cut any roots circling the rootball with a sharp tool. Place the root ball on the pedestal so that the root crown (top of the rootball) is 1 1/2" to 2" above the surrounding ground level. Return the soil to the hole. Avoid placing grass or weeds in the hole. Lightly tamp soil (do not compact) to avoid air pockets and fill soil only up to the top edge of the rootball.

Staking

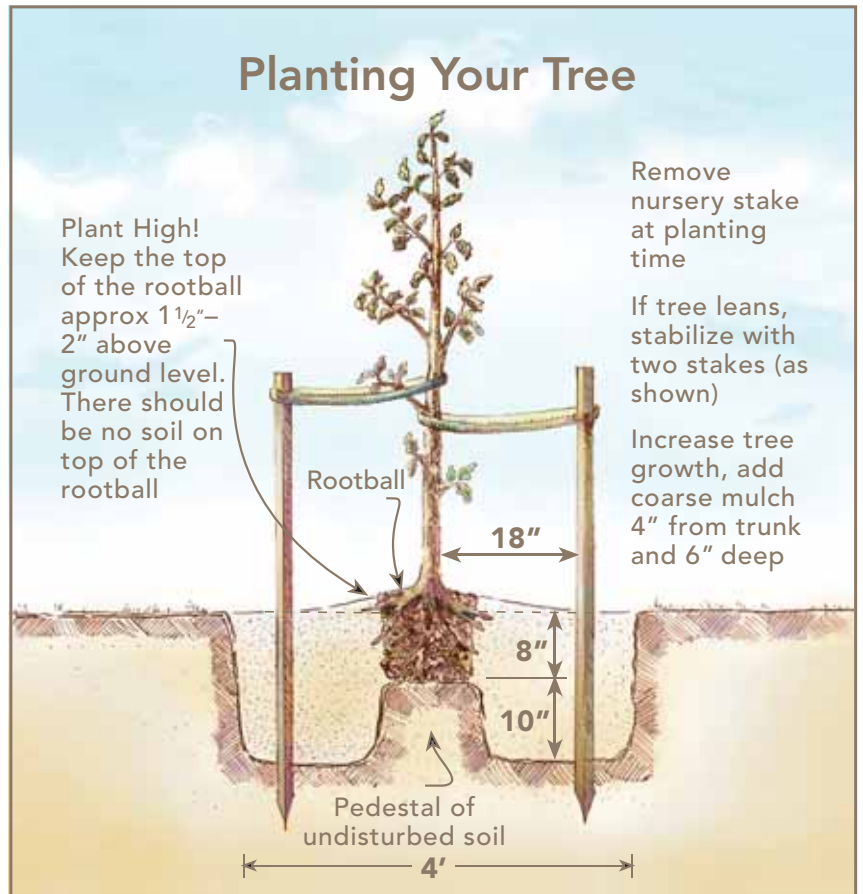
- Remove the nursery stake attached to the trunk. If the tree leans, support it by placing two stakes 18" from each side of the trunk. Locate where the trunk bends, place one tie loosely around the trunk in a single loop and tie tightly to the stake. Repeat on the opposite side at the same level. For faster growth, check ties monthly and remove when the tree stands on its own.

Mulch

- Apply mulch 6" deep, 4" away from the trunk and 4' in diameter. Replenish mulch and avoid planting or allowing weeds to grow in the mulched area for three years while roots establish. Mulch will keep soil cool, retain water and add nutrients to the soil.

Deep Water

- Place a hose close to the trunk. Let water trickle long enough to saturate the rootball and planting area when there is no rain. Water one to three times a week, allowing the surface soil to dry before re-soaking. Probe 8 to 12" below soil surface to see if it is time to re-water. Keep the rootball moist, but not soggy while roots develop during the first three years. Lawn water is not sufficient for young trees.



Protect the Trunk

- Damage from mowers and trimmers can permanently damage or kill trees. Keep grass away from trunk, hand pull weeds and maintain a layer of mulch around the base of the tree.

Next Steps

- Small pruning cuts made between the first 2 to 10 years helps to produce a healthy tree. Pruning clinics are offered by The Sacramento Tree Foundation at various locations during the winter months.
- For more information or advice, call the Sacramento Tree Foundation at 916-924-8733 or visit sactree.com for more information.



Tree Species List

Tree Species							
Large Trees - 46 feet and larger in height							
SPECIES	FLOWERS	FALL COLOR	SOIL MOISTURE	GROWTH RATE Slow, Moderate, Fast	Spacing Between Trees	Minimum Distance From: (in feet)	
Red Maple		Various	M	Mod/Fast	25	SMUD Pad-Mounted Equipment: 8 Building Foundation: 15 Walks, Drives, AC: 8 Fence: 6 Underground Utility: 6 Utility Overhead: 30 Swimming Pools: 15 Septic System: 30	
Columnar Red Maple		Various	M	Mod/Fast	18		
River Birch		Yellow	W	Fast	25		
European Hackberry			D	Mod/Fast	30		
London Plane			W, M, D	Fast	30		
California Sycamore ★			W, M, D	Fast	30		
Chestnut-leaf Oak		Yellow	M, D	Mod/Fast	30		
Scarlet Oak		Red	M	Mod/Fast	30		
Blue Oak ★			D	Slow	30		
Valley Oak ★			D	Mod/Fast	30		
Bur Oak			M	Mod/Fast	30		
Willow Oak		Various	M	Mod/Fast	30		
Red Oak		Red	M	Mod/Fast	30		
Shumard Oak		Red	M	Mod/Fast	30		
American Linden		Yellow	W,M	Mod	30		
Musashino Columnar Zelkova		Various	D	Mod/Fast	18		
Sawleaf Zelkova	Cream	Various	D	Mod/Fast	30		
Medium Trees - 26 to 45 feet in height							
SPECIES	FLOWERS	FALL COLOR	SOIL MOISTURE	GROWTH RATE Slow, Moderate, Fast	Spacing Between Trees	Minimum Distance From: (in feet)	
Trident Maple		Various	M	Mod/Fast	18	SMUD Pad-Mounted Equipment: 8 Building Foundation: 15 Walks, Drives, AC: 6 Fence: 6 Underground Utility: 6 Utility Overhead: 20 Swimming Pools: 15 Septic System: 25	
Hedge Maple		Various	M	Mod/Fast	18		
Shantung Maple	Yellow	Various	D	Mod/Fast	15		
Japanese White Birch		Yellow	W	Mod/Fast	15		
European Hornbeam		Yellow	M	Slow/Mod	15		
Chinese Flame Tree	Yellow	Yellow	D	Mod/Fast	18		
Goldenrain Tree	Yellow	Yellow	D	Slow/Mod	18		
Tupelo (Sour Gum)		Red	W	Moderate	18		
Chinese Pistache		Various	M, D	Slow/Mod	25		
Capital Pear	White	Red	M	Fast	15		
Chanticleer Pear	White	Red	M	Fast	18		
Little Leaf Linden	Cream	Yellow	W	Slow/Mod	20		
Small Trees - up to 25 feet in height							
SPECIES	FLOWERS	FALL COLOR	SOIL MOISTURE	GROWTH RATE Slow, Moderate, Fast	Spacing Between Trees		Minimum Distance From: (in feet)
Eastern Redbud	Pink	Yellow	M	Mod/Fast	12	SMUD Pad-Mounted Equipment: 8 Building Foundation: 6 Walks, Drives, AC: 6 Fence: 3 Underground Utility: 3 Utility Overhead: 3 Swimming Pools: 6 Septic System: 25	
Chinese Fringe Tree	White	Yellow	M	Slow/Mod	12		
Washington Hawthorn	White	Orange	M	Mod/Fast	12		
Crape Myrtle	Various	Orange	M	Slow/Mod	12		
Japanese Crabapple	Pink	Yellow	M	Slow/Mod	12		
Prairifire Crabapple	Pink	Red	M	Slow/Mod	12		
Japanese Snowbell	White	Yellow	M	Slow/Mod	12		
Chaste Tree	Lav/Blue		M, D	Mod/Fast	12		

★ California Native Tree

Preferred Soil Moisture: W = Can tolerate wet soil M = Moist soil, well drained D = Requires infrequent deep watering once established

Rate of Growth: Fast = more than 3 ft./year Mod = 1 to 2 ft./year Slow = less than 1 ft./year