



## 3. Staking (optional)

### Stake a tree only if it cannot support itself.

- Place stakes on the opposite sides of the tree.
- Ensure the stakes don't interfere with or rub on any major branches.
- Pound stakes into the ground so that they are sturdy.
- Remove the nursery stake.
- Use flexible ties to secure the tree to the stakes.



## 4. Watering

**WATER 10-15 GALLONS ONCE A WEEK!**

**Watering regularly is crucial to help your tree survive its first 3 years. Sprinklers are not enough!**

### How do you know if your tree is thirsty?

Check the soil at a depth of 2 to 3 inches around the root ball. If the soil won't form a ball or crumbles when you press it together between your fingers, your tree is thirsty and needs water.

**TO WATER:** Fill a 5-gallon bucket of water and gently pour into the tree berm 2-3 times.

**PRO-TIP:** If you water your tree with a hose, time how long it takes to fill a 5-gallon bucket with the hose set on a slow trickle, multiply that by 2-3 times. That is the time you will let your hose run when watering your tree. Make sure that the water does not escape the berm, but stays inside the tree well and soaks down into the roots.

**Remember: do not keep the soil saturated with water! Water only when the soil shows signs of light moisture or dryness.**

### When should you water your tree?

**1ST & 2ND YEAR:** Deep water your shade tree once a week with 10-15 gallons. Water your fruit tree 17-20 gallons once a week.

**3RD YEAR:** Deep water every 4-6 weeks during the year, water a little more during the summer. Continue to check the soil for its moisture level if you're not certain whether or not the tree needs water.

**ONGOING:** Your tree will likely not need as much water going forward, but continue to monitor it and give it extra water as needed, particularly in the summer heat.

**NOTE:** The 5-gallon trees you receive will not yield immediate shade. However, planting trees when they are young allows them to establish themselves early, and if planted correctly, they will grow vigorously.



# TREE PLANTING GUIDELINES



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# 1. Planning

## Save Energy

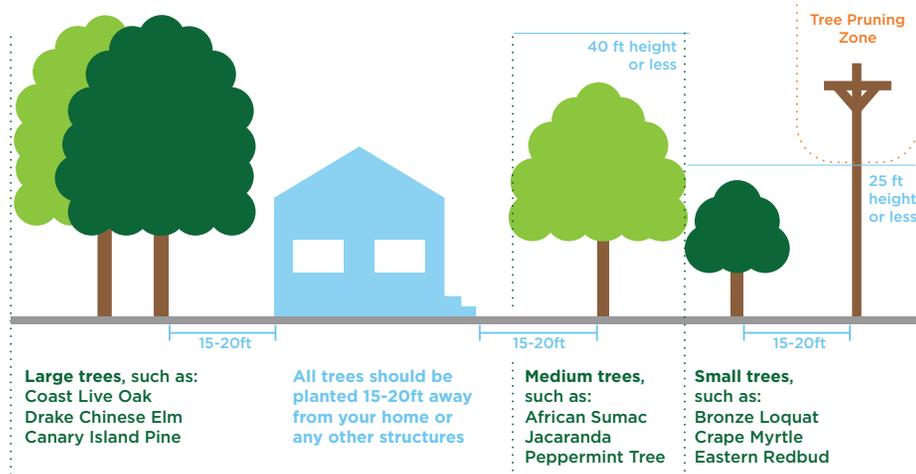
### For best energy savings, plant trees:

- To the West and East of your house
- Plant 15-20 feet away from your house, if space allows, but **NO LESS** than 10 feet away for safety
- Large trees still do great at 40 feet from your house



## Right Tree, Right Place

### Think Before You Plant



## Be Safe

Call Dig Alert at 811 at least 2 days before planting to make sure that you don't have any gas or utility lines where you want to plant.



# 2. Planting

### You will need the following tools:

- Shovel
- Water (hose or bucket)
- Gloves - optional
- Mulch - optional
- Stakes, ties, and arbor guard - optional

### Until you plant, keep the tree's soil moist and protect it from the sun. When you're ready to plant, follow these steps:

**1. DIG:** Dig a hole at least twice the width of the tree's container and just as deep as the soil in the pot.

**Very Important:** Measure to make sure the top of the root ball (where the trunk meets the soil) will sit 1 to 2 inches above the ground when you place it in the hole.

**2. PLACE TREE:** Remove the tree from the pot. Avoid damaging the root ball. Massage the roots gently and place the tree in the hole.

**3. BACKFILL:** Backfill the hole with the soil and make sure the top of the root ball is 1 to 2 inches above the surrounding soil level. Lightly poke the soil around the root ball to eliminate all air pockets.

**Very Important:** Do not put soil on top of the root ball and make sure to leave the root flare exposed. You will find the root flare where the trunk meets the soil — that's how the tree breathes, so it needs to be open to the air.

**4. BUILD A BERM:** Form the remaining soil into a berm around the tree. It should look like a donut of soil around the tree, which will ensure that water sinks directly into the tree's roots.

**5. WATER:** Water thoroughly right after planting to soak the planting area and settle the soil.

**6. MULCH:** (optional) Place a 3-inch layer of mulch around the tree to help control weeds, regulate soil temperature, and prevent evaporation. Cover the root ball with mulch, but keep the mulch at least 2 to 3 inches away from the trunk, because the trunk will rot if covered.

