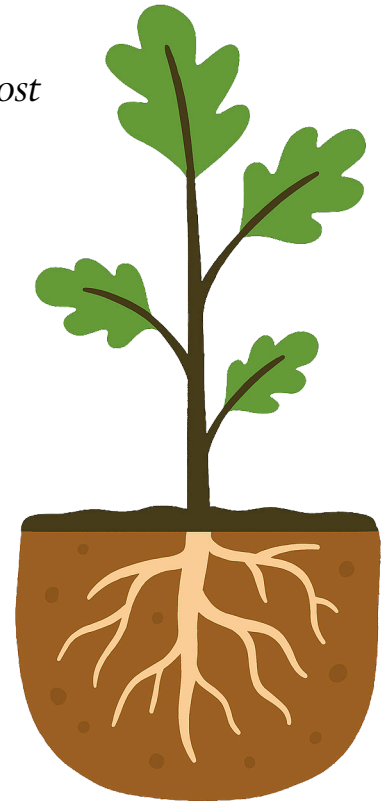


Tree Planting & Care Guide

Planting

What You'll Need

- Shovel • Mulch (wood chips or bark) • Tree guard or fencing • Compost
- **Choose Your Site:** Full sun (6+ hrs/ day) Well-drained, loamy or clay-loam soil Room to grow, wide canopy. Avoid underground utilities — call OHIO811 before digging
- **Dig the Hole:** Width 2× the root ball. Depth 24 inches. Incorporate 2 inches of compost to the upper 10 inches of subsoil. Mix together with the soil.
- **Place the Seedling:** Remove from container or unwrap bare roots Untangle circling roots Position so root collar (where roots meet stem) is level with ground
- **Backfill & Water:** Refill with native soil Gently tamp to remove air pockets Water deeply to settle soil
- **Mulch & Protect:** Apply 2-4" mulch around base Keep mulch 2" away from trunk Use guard/ fence if deer or rodents are present



Growing & Care Tips

- **Watering:** Weekly during first growing season More often in drought or sandy soil Avoid over-watering in heavy clay. Very young trees need to be watered once a week
- **Fertilizing:** Skip fertilizer in year one Use slow-release fertilizer in year two if growth is slow
- **Monitoring:** Watch for pests (especially gypsy moths or borers) Check for wildlife damage Prune only dead or damaged branches in late winter
- **Notes:** Southwestern Ohio Best planting time: March–April or October–November Winter care: Mulch helps insulate roots; avoid salt exposure Summer care: Deep watering during dry spells is critical

