

## Planting a Tree

Select a site in full sun. Dig the hole twice as wide as the root ball (container) and no deeper than the height of the root ball. The soil dug from the hole is what will be used to backfill around the root ball. No soil amendments are recommended when planting a tree, therefore, no compost, peat moss or shredded pine bark should be added to the backfill.

When digging the hole for the tree, build a 4-inch tall berm around the edge of the hole. After planting the tree fill the berm with a mulch (i.e. shredded bark, compost). The mulch and berm make it easier to water the tree and reduce weed competition.

Immediately after planting, water the tree by filling the berm basin with water. This will settle the existing soil around the root ball. In warm, dry weather, for the first week after planting, lightly water the tree every day (about one pint of water each day).

The second week, water every other day using about one quart of water. A 30 gallon – 100 gallon tree may take proportionally more water.

During week three, water every third day using two quarts of water.

Week four and beyond, water once a week as needed. The goal is to wean the tree slowly off supplemental irrigation and grow the root system large enough for the tree to thrive on natural rainfall.

Remember, these are guidelines. Use your index finger to check the soil moisture under the mulch. If the soil is cool to the touch, do not water. If it is warm and dry, then water. More plants are killed by over-watering than by under-watering.

