

How to Plant: ROOTBAG TREES

with Casey Trees

All of our trees are grown in rootbags, which promote better fine-root production and enhance water and nutrient exchange, improving survival rates after planting. Rootbag-grown trees also need less soil, reducing environmental impact and transportation costs, and simplifying the planting process.

After you've picked the right place for your tree, here's how to plant it.

1 DIG A HOLE

Locate the root flare at the base of the tree to gauge the depth you will need to dig. Then, dig a hole 2 to 3 times wider than the rootball and deep enough that the root flare is at or 1" above surrounding soil. Shovel your soil onto a tarp for easy cleanup.



This is the root flare – the spot where the trunk widens at the base and roots begin.



CHECK THE DEPTH 2

Using the end of a tool handle and your hand, measure the height of your root flare. Lay another tool over the center of the hole. Place the handle in the hole and use your hand measurement to check the depth. Will the root flare be at or 1" above the soil level?

If yes, perfect! If not, dig a little deeper or backfill the hole with soil.

HOW TO PLANT A ROOTBAG TREE (CONT.)

3 REMOVE THE ROOTBAG

Use scissors or a box cutter to cut the fabric bag along its side and the bottom. Then, tear the bag completely off. Do not plant the bag with the tree!



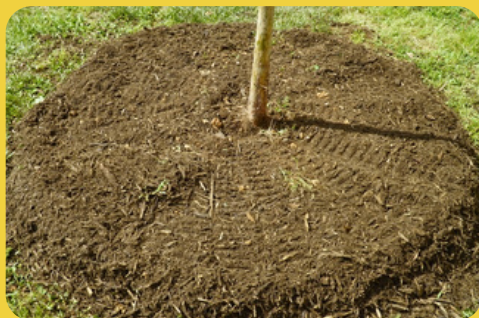
PLANT YOUR TREE

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Position the tree in the center of the hole. Check that the root flare is level with the ground and the tree is straight. Fill the hole with the original soil you dug up, including grass and rocks. If planting on a slope, create a berm on the lower side of the slope.

5 MULCH YOUR TREE

Spread mulch in a neat circle following the 3-3-3 Rule. Mulch should be about 3 inches deep, extended out to a 3-foot radius from the trunk, leaving a 3-inch gap around the trunk itself. The root flare should be exposed.



WATER YOUR TREE

6

Water the base of the tree, soaking the mulch with a garden hose for 2-3 minutes every week. You can also use a five-gallon bucket to water. Newly planted trees need up to 25 gallons of water per week. To learn more, visit caseytrees.org/water.

