



Tree Planting and Initial Care

Prepare the hole

1. Remove the turf grass- the roots of grasses steal valuable water and nutrients from young trees
2. Dig a wide hole (2.5-3 times the width of the root ball) but not too deep- Remove the container and find the root flare. The root flare is often buried in the root ball so you may have to remove soil to find it. Dig hole depth so the root flare is just above the soil line.

Prepare the root ball

1. Check the root ball for circling roots. If circling roots exist, cut horizontally down through the root ball on four sides with a pruning saw or reciprocating saw. Only cut into the root ball enough to sever all circling roots.

Plant the tree

1. Put the tree in the hole, if planting between the sidewalk and the street, be sure stem is in the center of the boulevard.
2. Lay a post across the hole to confirm the depth is correct- trunk flare should be at or just above the soil line.
3. Backfill around the root ball and straighten up the tree, do not amend the soil.
4. While backfilling, water the root ball and planting hole and gently compress the soil around the root ball.
5. Do not place soil on top of the root ball
6. If excess soil exists after filling in the planting hole, mound the soil around the root ball to hold excess water.
7. Evenly spread 2-3 in. of wood chip or bark mulch over the entire planting area. Do not apply excess mulch or pile it around the stem.



Circling roots were cut using a pruning saw.

Stake the tree

1. Drive posts into the ground on opposite sides of the stem and parallel to the street. Make sure posts are just outside of the planting hole and are driven vertically.
2. Use arbortie and straps to secure the stem. Use nails to secure the arbortie to the posts. Allow for some movement of the stem but be sure the root ball stays in place during high winds.

Care for the tree

1. Install water bag and fill once per week during the growing season and once per month during the dormant season (on days above 40).
2. Remove any grass or weeds that seed into the mulched area.
3. Be sure not to damage the stem with your string trimmer or lawn mower.



Soil was removed from the top of the root ball until the trunk flare was visible.



Planted tree with water bag, mulched and staked.

Thanks for planting a tree in Cheyenne! You are improving your neighborhood and making our community greener and more livable. To learn more, go to RootedinCheyenne.com.