



ANAHEIM PUBLIC UTILITIES

# TREEPOWER PLANTING TIPS



**PROPER PLANTING IS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE HEALTHY TREES THAT WILL GIVE YOU YEARS OF COOL SHADE. DON'T DELAY! THE BEST TIME TO PLANT YOUR TREEPOWER TREES IS TODAY. IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, WE HAVE A MILD CLIMATE AND THE LUXURY OF PLANTING TREES YEAR-ROUND. TREEPOWER SUPPLIES YOU WITH NURSERY-GROWN CONTAINER TREES THAT ARE ESPECIALLY SUITED FOR EASY TRANSPLANTING IN EVERY SEASON.**

**T R E E P O W E R P L A N T I N G T I P S**

# ENSURE HEALTHY TREES

## PREPARATIONS

### CALL BEFORE DIGGING

Before picking up a shovel, phone Underground Service Alert (USA DigAlert) toll free at 1-800-422-4133. They'll locate underground telephone cables, electric cables, gas lines and water lines. Knowing the location of underground service lines can help you avoid damaging them and can even prevent injuries. Call at least two working days before you dig.

### PREPARE YOUR TREE SITE(S)

- Each site has been marked by TreePower representatives with paint and/or flags.
- To prepare the soil for planting, saturate the marked areas with water three to five days prior to planting. This also makes the digging go easier and faster.
- Discontinue use of any broadleaf weed removal chemicals in the vicinity of new trees.

Adding soil amendments, fertilizer or compost to the hole is not required.

### GET YOUR TOOLS READY

You'll need the following to do your planting...

- Shovel
- Burlap or plastic tarp
- Possibly a pick ax
- Hose or bucket to water the tree
- Stake pounder, if you're installing wood stakes
- Work gloves
- Sturdy shoes

Review the staking options on the back panel and obtain any necessary materials at your local hardware store.

### HERE'S WHAT WE'LL PROVIDE

- The tree(s)
- Tree ties
- Arbor guard(s)

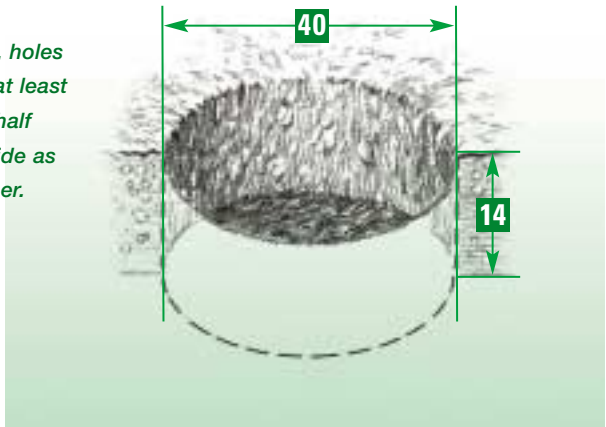
### HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOU NEED?

About 45 minutes to plant each tree

## DIGGING

1. Begin by removing a circle of turf about 40 inches in diameter. Save the soil for back fill. Discard any turf; it should not be replaced around the tree.
2. As you dig, place the soil on a heavy-duty tarp located near the edge of the hole. If digging on a slope, place the soil uphill from the hole. Remove rocks and large roots. Break up any heavy clods of soil. If you encounter a sprinkler line, the hole may be shifted slightly so that the root ball can fit alongside the pipe.
3. Dig the right size hole (approx. 40" x 14" deep). Holes two and a half times as wide as the container - or more - give the roots plenty of space to stretch out. The hole should have a cylindrical shape with straight sides and level bottom when it's finished. This prepares the tree for superior establishment and growth.

*Remember, holes should be at least two and a half times as wide as the container.*



4. The final hole depth is determined by the height of the root ball (soil plus tree). If the tree is planted too deeply, the roots may be deprived of oxygen. If the tree is planted too high, the roots are exposed to the sun and may dry out. When the root ball is placed into the hole, the top should be one inch higher than the surrounding ground level. The tree will settle as it is watered.

### NOTE ABOUT HILLSIDE PLANTINGS

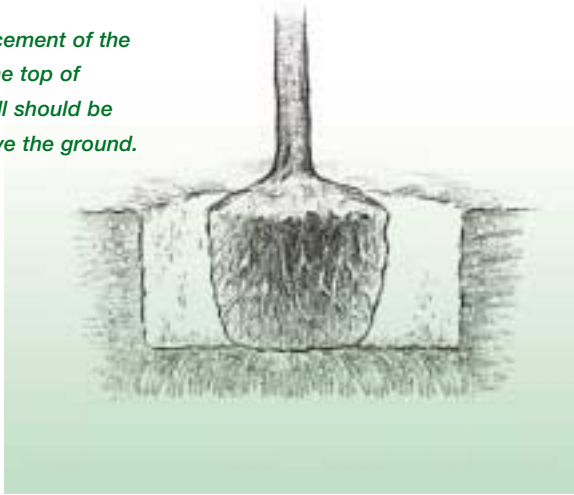
If digging your hole on a slope, first cut a level plateau into the side of the hill. Then dig the hole on the level area.

## TRANSPLANTING

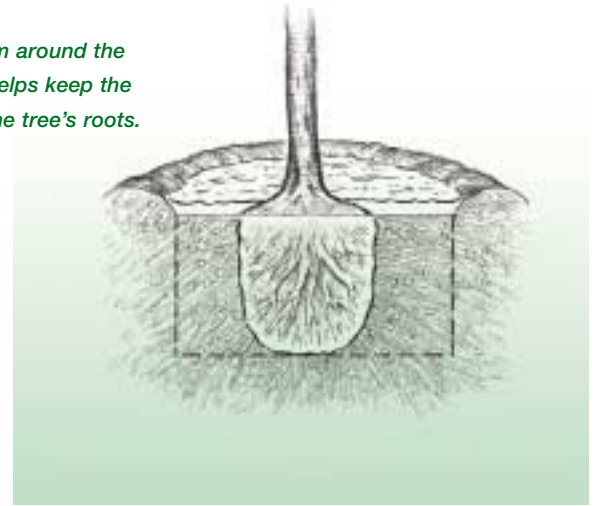
### TRANSPLANTING FROM CONTAINER TO HOLE

1. Move the tree container beside the hole.
2. Gently lower the tree on its side.
3. Slide the tree carefully from the container. Do not pull the tree out by its trunk. It's important to keep the root ball intact. If the tree is difficult to remove, cut the container without disturbing the root ball.
4. Set the tree in the center of the hole by lifting it from the bottom of the root ball. Treat the tree carefully and keep the root ball together to reduce shock to the tree.
5. If the top of the root ball is higher than one inch above grade, lean the tree over and remove soil from the bottom of the hole. If the top of the root ball is below grade, add some soil under the tree to raise it.
6. Fill the hole with the native soil that was removed.
7. Avoid placing fertilizer in the hole, or the tender roots may burn.
8. Do not disturb the root ball, and do not put soil on top of it.
9. Use your shovel to fill in air pockets, but don't over-compact the soil by stomping.
10. When the hole is halfway filled, add approximately five gallons of water. Pour it carefully outside the perimeter of the root ball.
11. Continue back filling with native soil.
12. After back filling around the tree to grade level, build a soil berm, circling the edge of the hole to contain water in a basin. Slowly add another 10 gallons of water.

*Proper placement of the root ball: the top of the root ball should be 1-inch above the ground.*



*A soil berm around the root ball helps keep the water at the tree's roots.*



## WATERING

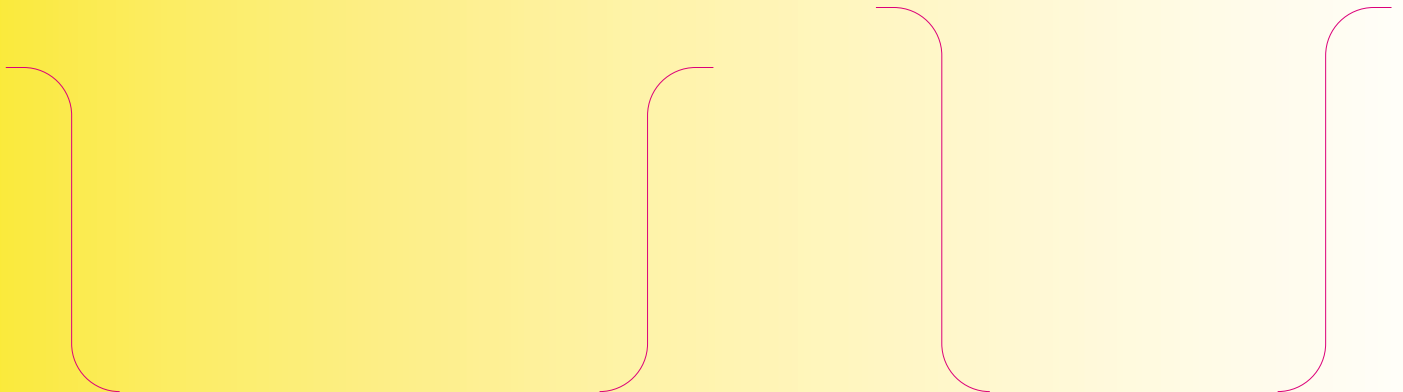
Proper watering of the new tree is particularly important. Be sure to water generously and often. For the first three to four weeks after planting, apply 15 gallons of water every other day.

If your soil drains slowly, apply the water with a hose placed just inside the berm and adjust it to a flow rate that doesn't flood the tree. It may take an hour or two for the water to saturate to the correct depth of two feet. If your soil drains quickly, you can apply water with a bucket.

Initially, this frequent watering helps the tree's roots to establish quickly and grow deeply into the soil. If you irrigate only the top of the turf, the roots will rise to the surface to seek out water. This does not promote good health or future stability of the tree.

After the first month, water it deeply once a week with 10-15 gallons of water. In hot and/or windy weather, water more often. Do not let the tree wilt.

## TO CONTACT YOUR TREEPOWER REPRESENTATIVE



## STAKING AND FINISHING

**PROPERLY STAKING AND FINISHING YOUR TREE(S) IS AN IMPORTANT STEP FOR YOUR TREE'S SURVIVAL.**

Trees are staked to avoid limbs from breaking and roots from shifting during high winds or heavy rains. Your tree is delivered attached to a nursery stake. This stake must be replaced with another means of support that does not restrict the tree's growth. There are two ways to stake a tree. The preferred method is double staking.

### DOUBLE STAKING

1. Drive two six-to eight-foot tall lodgepole wood stakes into the ground just outside the perimeter of the root ball, spacing them an equal distance from the tree. Ideally, stakes should be oriented to provide support in the cross direction of the prevailing winds, typically Santa Ana winds.
2. After the new stakes are installed, while supporting the tree with one hand, remove the nursery stake.
3. Use rubber ties (supplied) and tie the tree high enough on the trunk to support the canopy. Keep the ties loose to allow for growth and movement, so the tree can still flex in the wind. Never use string, wire, rope or any other tying material that can cut into the bark and result in the girdling and death of the tree. Also, do not use fixed horizontal trunk supports that restrict the tree from swaying in the wind.
4. Nail the ties to the stakes.
5. Check the stakes and ties several times each growing season. A tree can grow enough in one season that the ties become too tight.
6. Remove the stakes when the diameter of the trunk is greater than two inches, or when the tree is firmly rooted and can support itself. This usually occurs within two years.



## REMINDERS

- Try not to leave an open hole in your front yard. If this is unavoidable, barricade the hole and mark it to prevent accidents.
- If you do not plant your trees shortly after delivery, they'll need ample water and protection from high winds to prevent drying out. TreePower trees should be planted as soon as possible. The species we provide will not survive for long periods in a container, and they do not survive indoors.

### GUY WIRE STAKING

The use of guy wires is another staking method and is most effective for trees on hillsides and slopes. Guy wires are not recommended in high-traffic areas.

### ARBOR GUARD

Don't forget this important trunk protection device! Damage by pets, lawn mowers and string trimmers is very harmful to the tree and may lead to severe stunting or death. The arbor guard, when wrapped around the base of the trunk, protects the bark from injury.

### MULCHING

Applying mulch around the base of the tree is highly recommended. Trees that are mulched grow faster. Also, mulch prevents the growth of weeds and conserves water by limiting evaporation from the soil.

Mulch can consist of pine straw, shredded bark, twigs or wood chips. Apply the mulch in a three-to five-inch layer extending two to three feet from the trunk, but don't pile the mulch against the tree. Moisture trapped next to the trunk by a heavy layer of mulch may promote decay.

Mulch can be attractive in the landscape and is much preferred over the practice of growing the turf back around the trunk. Turf competes with the newly planted tree for water and nutrients.

## MAINTENANCE TIPS

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON LONG-TERM CARE AND MAINTENANCE FOR YOUR NEW SHADE TREE(S), SEE THE ENCLOSED MAINTENANCE MATERIALS.**

Thank you for investing your time to plant your new trees properly. They will reward you and your neighbors in the years to come.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CALL TREEPOWER AT 714/491-TREE**



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[www.anaheim.net](http://www.anaheim.net)