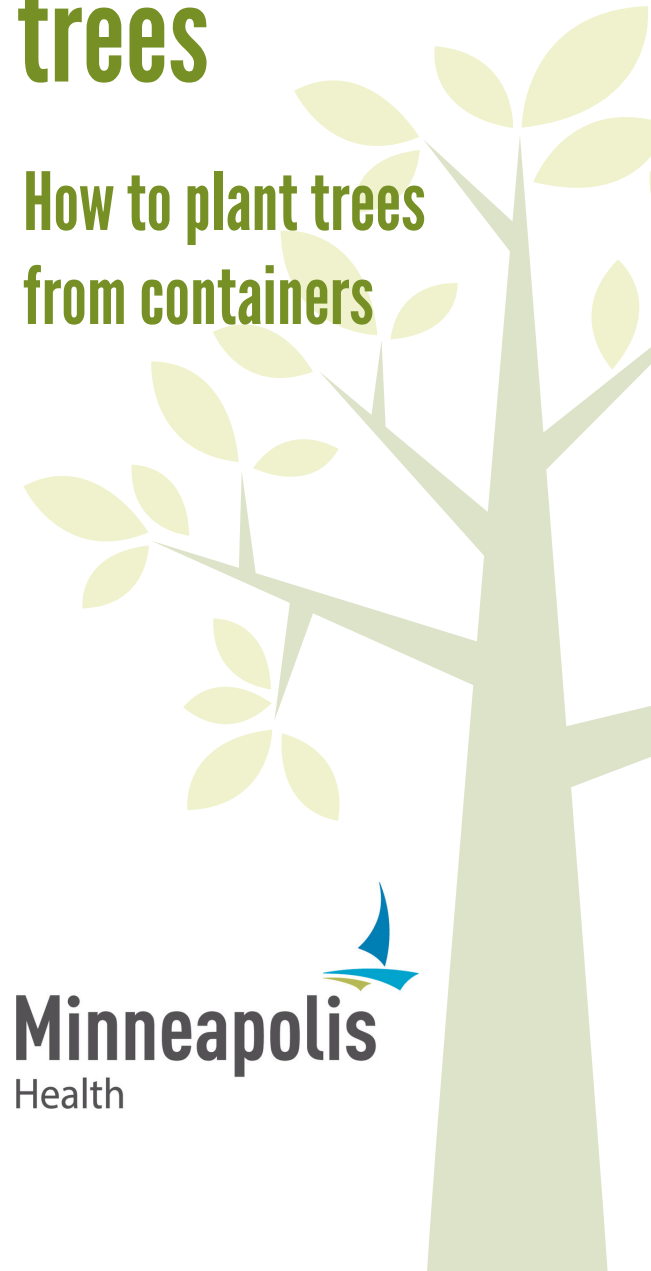




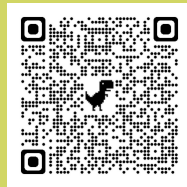
# Planting your trees

## How to plant trees from containers

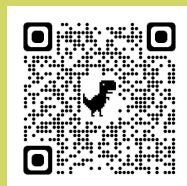


For more planting information consult these resources:

[University of Minnesota Extension: Planting and transplanting trees and shrubs](#)



[Tree Owner's Manual](#)  
[www.treeownersmanual.info](http://www.treeownersmanual.info)



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**Minneapolis**  
Health

# 10 Easy Steps to properly plant your tree

Your tree must be planted in the ground, and it must be planted in a yard space on private property.

## 1 DECIDE WHERE TO PLANT

This is a big decision! Consider how much sunlight your tree will need to thrive, as well as how big your tree will be in 20-30 years.

Plant your tree at least:

- 3 feet from pavement or fencing
- 15 feet from buildings

If your tree will grow taller than 30 feet plant it 25 feet from overhead electrical wires.

## 2 PRUNE ONLY DEAD AND DAMAGED BRANCHES

To remove dead and damaged branches, use hand pruners to cut above the branch collar.

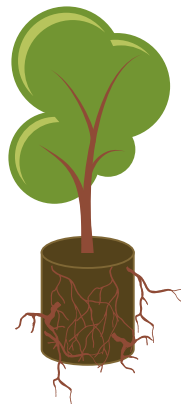
If you're unsure whether a branch is dead or not, use your thumbnail to scrape the bark gently. If you see green, the branch is alive.

## 3 REMOVE THE TREE FROM ITS CONTAINER

To remove the tree from its container, lay it down carefully and roll the container back and forth while applying gentle pressure to loosen the root ball.

Once done, stand the tree up and hold it at the base of the trunk. If it doesn't come out easily, use scissors to cut the pot.

Trim the roots and  
loosen the root ball



## 4 TRIM THE ROOTS

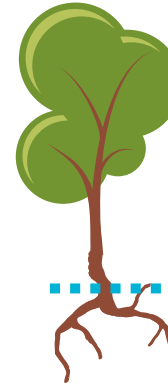
Your tree's roots may be growing in a circle inside the container, which we don't want. To avoid this, use a serrated knife or hand saw to make shallow cuts around the sides of the root ball, and an X across the bottom to break them up.

Afterward, loosen and remove 1-2 inches of the outer roots and soil using your hands.

## 5 FIND THE ROOT FLARE

To locate your tree's root flare, which is the point where the trunk widens and flares out into roots, look at the base of the trunk.

On young trees, the root flare may be hard to identify, and you may need to remove a bit of soil to find it.



Root Flare

## 6 DIG A HOLE

Using a shovel, dig a hole for your tree that is twice the width of the root ball and just deep enough to position the root flare above the level of the soil.

Remember: Dig wide, not deep. Your hole should be shaped like a saucer with gently sloping sides.

## 7 TEST THE DEPTH

To plant the tree, carefully place it into the hole. To ensure the root flare is at the correct depth, you can use the handle of your shovel as a guide. Lay it across the hole and check if the root flare is above or below the handle. If it's above, dig the hole a bit deeper. If it's below, remove the tree and backfill the hole (remembering to tamp it down) until the root flare is flush with the soil surface.

Remember that burying the root flare can kill the tree, so it's important to get the depth right.

## 8 BACKFILL THE SOIL

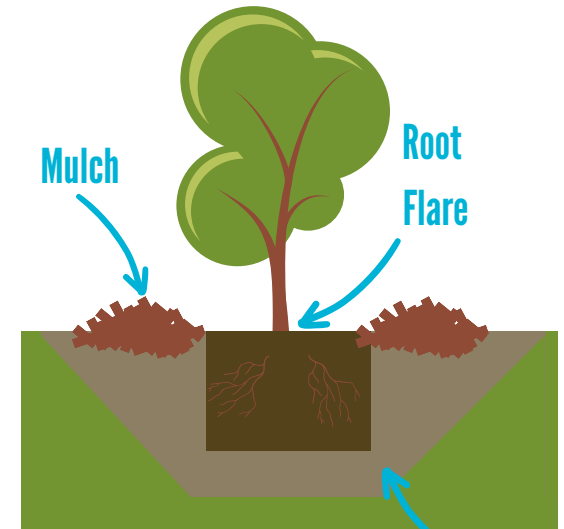
Gently place your tree in the center of the hole, making sure the trunk is straight and the root ball is stable. Return the soil to the hole, packing it down as you go.

Make sure the soil fills in any air pockets and is securely holding the tree in place. And stop when you reach the root flare!

## 9 MULCH USING THE 3-3-3 METHOD

Using mulch, make a ring of mulch around your tree that is 3' wide and 3" deep. Make sure to keep the mulch 3" inches away from the trunk so the root flare is still exposed.

When finished, the mulch should look like a donut rather than a volcano.



## 10 WATER!

Riegue su árbol nuevo con 15-20 galones de agua por semana durante los primeros tres años. Riéguelo desde que brota en primavera hasta que:

Pierde sus hojas en otoño.

- El suelo se congela.

