PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Unpack your trees, remove all packing material, carefully untangle the roots, and soak the roots in water for 3–6 hours. Do not allow the roots to dry out.

2. Dig a hole, wider than seems necessary, so the roots can grow outward without crowding. Remove any grass within a 3-foot circular area. To aid root growth, turn soil in an area up to 3 feet in diameter.

3. Plant the tree just deep enough to barely cover the root collar (the uppermost point at which the roots grow out of the trunk), keeping plenty of room for the roots to spread. This is a critical factor for survival and growth. Ensure the tree is not planted deeper than the surrounding soil.

4. Shovel in the remaining soil. Natural is best — no need to add fertilizer, peat moss, sand, etc. It should be firmly but not tightly packed. Construct a water-holding basin around the tree. Give the tree plenty of water.

5. After the water has soaked in, spread protective mulch 2 inches deep in a 3-foot diameter around the base of the tree, but be careful not to allow the mulch to touch the trunk of the tree. Mulch serves as a protective barrier and provides an organic layer to stimulate growth.

6. The soil and mulch around your trees should be kept moist but not waterlogged. During dry weather, generously water the tree every 7 to 10 days during the first year.
Arbor Day, the tree planter's holiday, is a nationally (and internationally) celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. Arbor Day is celebrated by individuals, schools, organizations, and even entire communities.

MAKE ARBOR DAY FUN AND MEMORABLE

- Ask local media to sponsor a tree trivia contest and give away trees.
- Conduct tours to see outstanding, unusual, or historic trees in the community.
- Dedicate a tree (or trees) in a park or school inviting everyone to participate.
- Find activities for children at arborday.org/kids.

Whether it’s your first Arbor Day or 50th, find ideas and inspiration for an Arbor Day celebration by visiting arborday.org/celebrate.

NATIONAL ARBOR DAY IS THE LAST FRIDAY IN APRIL

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING AND CARE

The Arbor Day Foundation celebrates those who are committed to planting and caring for a healthy tree canopy in their communities.

More than 3,600 cities and towns of all sizes are currently recognized as Tree City USA® communities.

Nearly 150 utility companies have received Tree Line USA® status for their dedication to helping trees and power lines live in harmony.

And more than 500 colleges and universities, healthcare institutions, and K-12 schools have received Tree Campus recognition for their efforts to plant and care for trees while educating their community.

Is your community being recognized for prioritizing tree care? If so, be sure to congratulate them! If not, find out more about how you can get involved and encourage your community leaders to apply at arborday.org/programs.

Join the Arbor Day Foundation through membership

Want to join the largest nonprofit membership organization dedicated to planting trees?

With your membership contribution, starting at $10, you will be taking an active role in making America — and our world — greener and healthier through planting trees. You will also receive a subscription to our bimonthly publication, access to helpful tree care information, and the choice of one of the free gifts listed below. Take advantage of this offer today at arborday.org/join.