

Community Benefits

- Trees add beauty and grace to your neighborhood.
- Trees add value to your property.
- Trees produce oxygen and help cleanse the air we breathe.
- Tree leaves capture rainwater, the roots help clean rainwater and add stability to the soil.
- Trees cool your home naturally. When properly selected, planted and cared for trees begin to reduce your home cooling costs within a few years. Fully grown, trees can cut your home cooling costs by up to 40 percent.
- Trees reduce crime and vandalism, reducing insurance rates.
- Trees are shown to reduce stress, improve test scores and life decisions for school aged girls.



The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.
- US Department of Agriculture



Geneva Shade Tree Commission

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Maximizing the Economic, Environmental and Social Benefits of Trees for the Residents of Geneva.

How to Plant a Tree

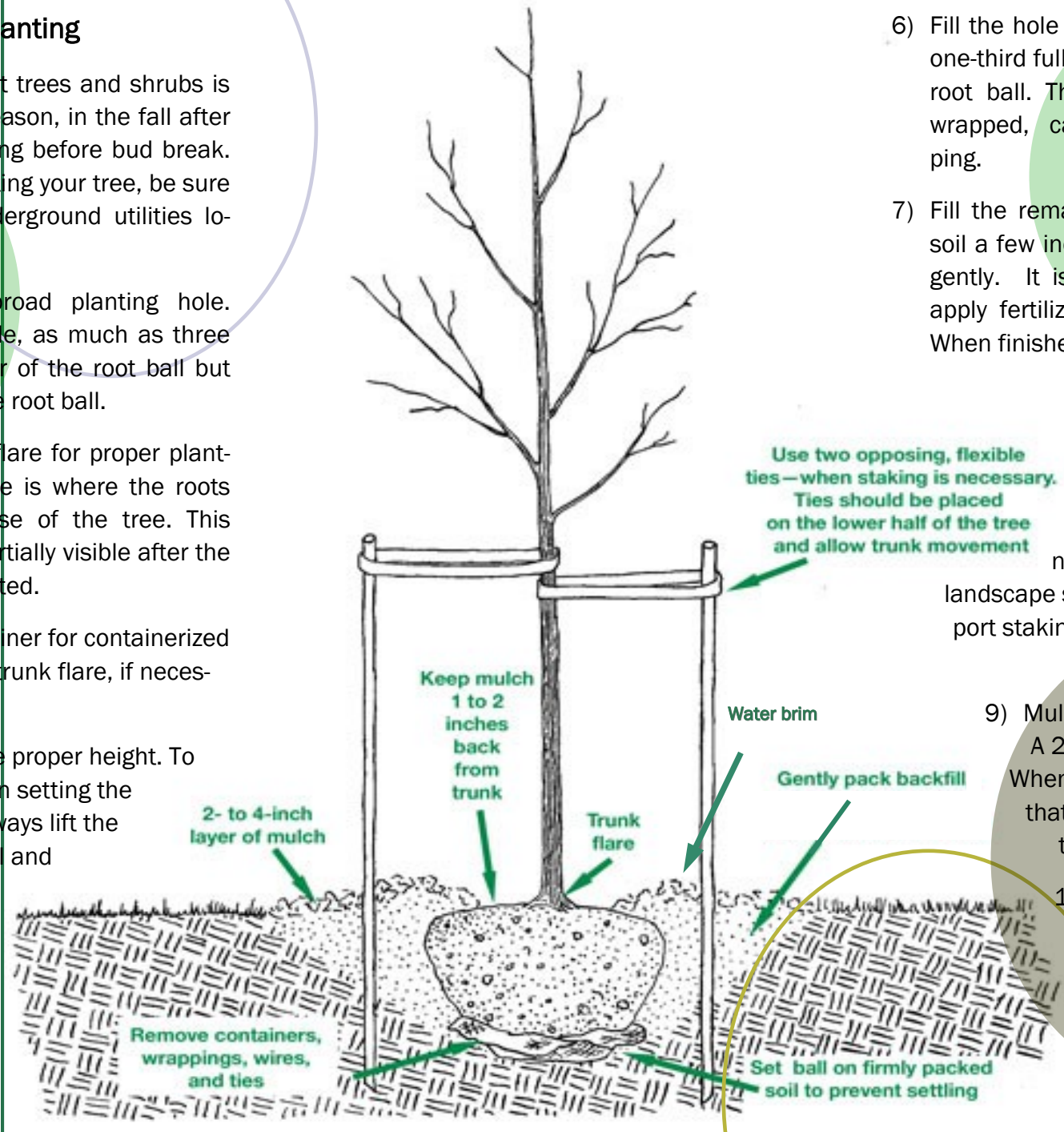


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Tree Planting

The ideal time to plant trees and shrubs is during the dormant season, in the fall after leaf drop or early spring before bud break. Before you begin planting your tree, be sure you have had all underground utilities located prior to digging.

- 1) Dig a shallow, broad planting hole. Make the hole wide, as much as three times the diameter of the root ball but only as deep as the root ball.
- 2) Identify the trunk flare for proper planting. The trunk flare is where the roots spread at the base of the tree. This point should be partially visible after the tree has been planted.
- 3) Remove tree container for containerized trees. Expose the trunk flare, if necessary.
- 4) Place the tree at the proper height. To avoid damage when setting the tree in the hole, always lift the tree by the root ball and never by the trunk.
- 5) Straighten the tree in the hole, before you begin backfilling.



- 6) Fill the hole gently but firmly, about one-third full around the base of the root ball. Then, if the root ball is wrapped, carefully remove wrapping.
- 7) Fill the remainder of the hole with soil a few inches at a time, packing gently. It is not recommended to apply fertilizer at time of planting. When finished, water.
- 8) Stake the tree, if necessary. If the tree is grown properly at the nursery, staking for support may not be necessary in most home landscape situations. Remove support staking and ties after the first year of growth.
- 9) Mulch the base of the tree. A 2- to 4-inch layer is ideal. When placing mulch, be sure that the flare at the base of the trunk is not covered.
- 10) Water with 15 to 20 gallons of water within one day of planting.