

TREE PLANTING GUIDE

SCHOOLCRAFT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

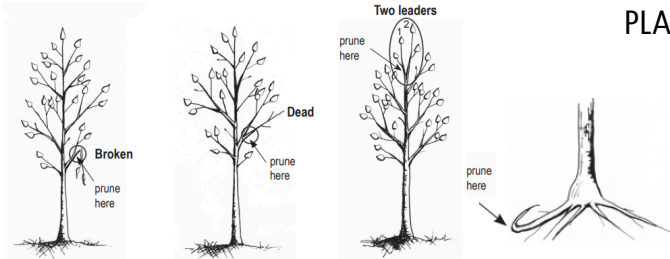
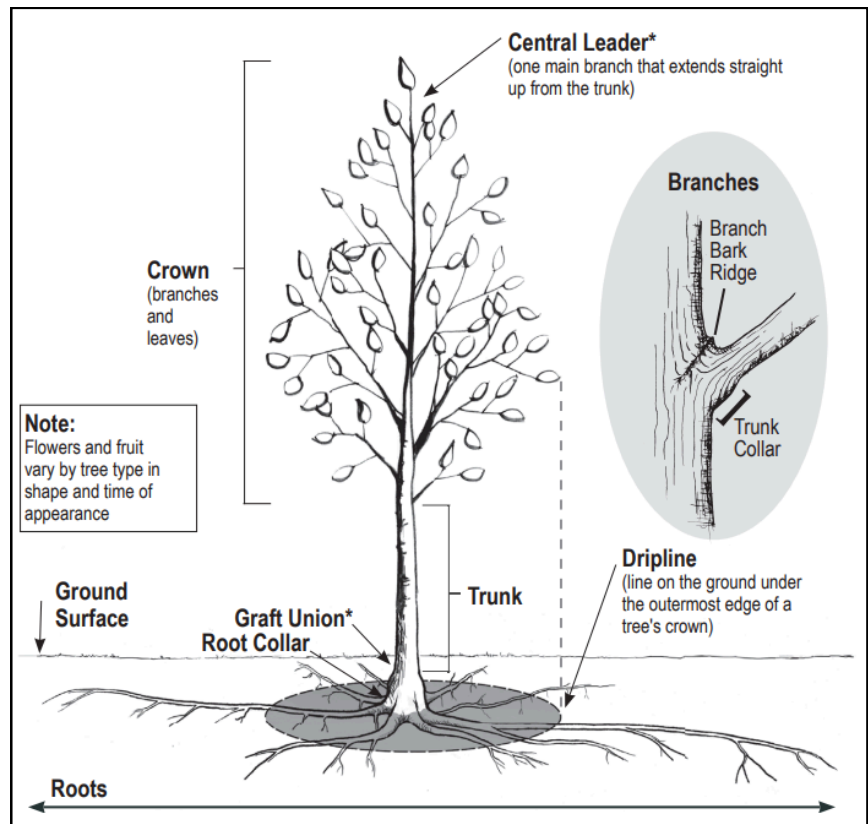
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PRE-PLANTING CARE will contribute to the survival and growth of the tree. Be sure to:

- Store your tree in a cool, shaded location.
- Keep your tree out of direct sunlight and wind.
- Keep the roots moist - **NEVER LET THEM DRY OUT!**
- If unable to plant your tree immediately, heel it. Find a shaded place that's protected from the wind and dig a trench. Place the roots in the trench and lay the plant on the ground at an angle, loosely filling with moist soil.

CHOOSE A LOCATION where your tree won't interfere with buildings, overhead utilities, or pavement as it grows. Make sure it is at least 15 feet from buildings and/or other trees, and 3 feet from pavement or fencing. **Call MISS DIG at 811 prior to planting to ensure you won't hit any underground utilities.**



PLANTING

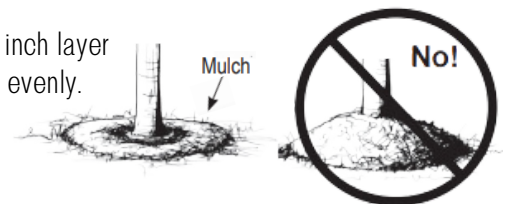
1. Unpack trees as they are being planted to ensure the roots are kept moist. Remove all packaging and prune **ONLY** branches that are broken, dead, or competing as a leader. Most trees should have one central leader; if there are two or more, choose which one you want to remain and remove the others. Prune any damaged roots or bent roots at the point where they turn.

2. Dig a hole that's twice as wide as the root system and as deep. Roots should be able to grow outward without crowding. For best growth, remove grass and turn up the soil within three feet of the planting hole. Break up clumps to ensure proper drainage. Form a mound of soil at the bottom of the hole.

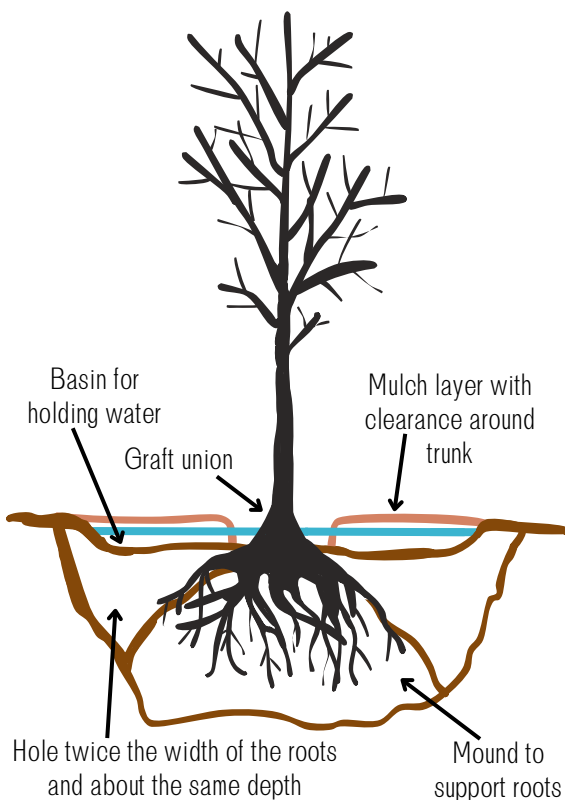
3. Place your tree in the hole so that the graft union is 2-3 inches above the ground. Spread the roots around the mound at the bottom of the hole. Partially fill the hole, firming the soil around the lower roots. Make sure the trunk is kept straight.

4. Crumble the remaining soil into the hole, lightly tamping down as you go to collapse any air pockets. Do not add fertilizer or other amendments unless the soil has tested as nutrient-poor. Form a water-holding basin around the base of the tree. Water generously.

5. After the water has soaked in, add a 2-4 inch layer of mulch over the backfilled area. Spread evenly. Pull mulch away from the trunk so that none touches the bark.



6. Optional: Use a trunk guard to help protect the tree from wind, insects, deer, and other animals such as rabbits and rodents that may chew on the young bark. At a minimum, the trunk should be protected during winter months. The tube should be big enough to allow 1-4 inches of space around the trunk. It should be 1-3 feet tall, extending above anticipated snow depth, and touch the ground.



Our tree sale is made possible by the 2018 Schoolcraft Conservation District millage.

Information and illustrations from the USDA Forest Service. The full Tree Owner's Manual is available for free online.