

Sacramento Shade Tree Planting Guide

Preparing to plant your tree

- Remove all grass and weeds in a 4-foot wide circle. Grass will not be reused.
- Dig the hole 4 feet wide and about 8 inches deep.
- Dig a deeper ring around the outside edge of the hole to give the roots room to grow. Leave a solid pedestal of soil in the center.
- Score the sides of the hole with a shovel so they are not smooth.

Planting your tree

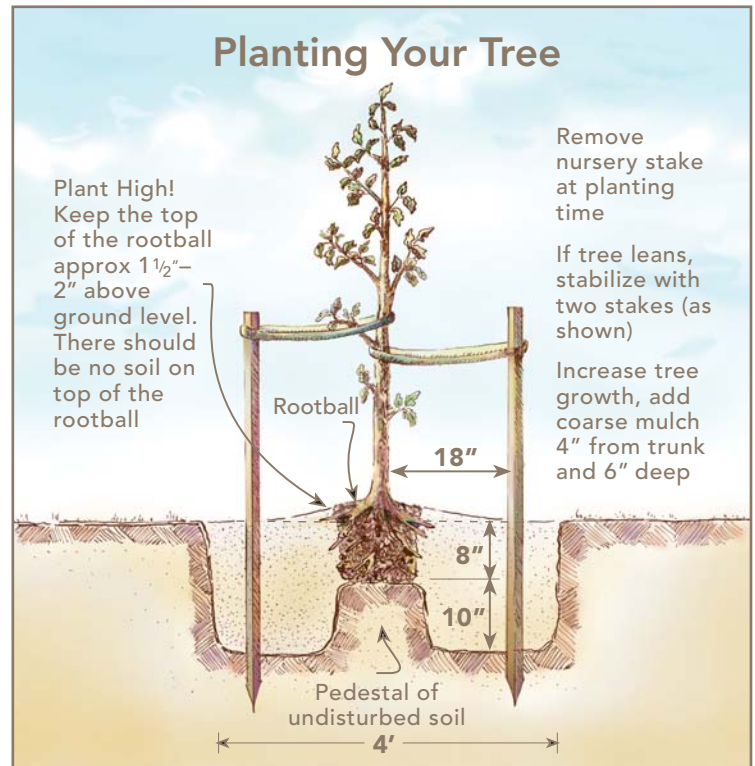
- Thoroughly loosen and extend roots along the sides and bottom of the root ball. If there are roots growing in a circle, cut them so they can grow straight.
- Place the root ball on the pedestal and check the height of the root flare (where the trunk meets the roots and flares out) – it should be about 1 inch above the surrounding ground level.
- Refill the hole with the soil you originally removed. Leave the grass out and be careful not to bury the top of the root ball. The top of the root ball and the root flare should remain exposed.

Staking

- Remove the nursery stake that is tied tightly against the trunk of the tree.
- Support your young tree by placing two stakes on opposite sides of the tree. Place them 18 inches away from the trunk. Pound the stakes into the ground until they are securely anchored.
- Loop the ties around the tree where it needs the most support to stand straight. Ties should be loosely looped once around the tree and then tied securely to the stakes.
- Check stakes and ties each month to make sure they are not rubbing the trunk. Remove stakes and ties as soon as the tree is able to stand straight on its own – usually within 6-12 months.

Mulch & protect your tree

- Spread wood chip mulch in a 4-foot diameter around your tree, 4 inches away from the trunk, and 6 inches thick.
- Mulch will keep soil temperatures cool, retain water, and discourage weeds.
- Do not use weed trimmers, lawn mowers, or herbicides near the base of your tree. They can permanently damage or kill trees.
- Instead, pull weeds by hand whenever necessary.



Deep water

- Water your tree deeply by slowly soaking the soil.
- Set your hose on a slow trickle for 1-2 hours at the base of the tree. Or, use a soaker hose spiraled around the base of the tree and let it drip for several hours.
- Your tree will need about 10-15 gallons of deep watering per week for the first three years.
- Lawn sprinklers will not replace the need to deeply water your trees.

Pruning

- Learn how to prune your trees for healthy structure by attending a Pruning Clinic offered by Sacramento Tree Foundation
- Download a Pruning Guide at sactree.com/prune



Tree Species List

Large trees - 46 feet and larger in height

Common Name	Flowers	Fall Color	Soil Moisture	Growth Rate	Space Betw. Trees	Building Foundation	Sidewalks & Driveways	Air Conditioner	Fence	Undergrnd Utility	Overhead Utility
Red Maple		Various	M, W	Mod/Fast	25	15	8	8	6	6	30
Columnar Red Maple		Various	M, W	Mod/Fast	18	10	6	8	6	6	25
European Hackberry		Yellow	M, D	Mod/Fast	30	15	8	8	6	6	30
London Plane			W,M,D	Fast	30	15	8	8	6	6	30
California Sycamore ★			W,M,D	Fast	30	15	8	8	6	6	30
Chestnut-leaf Oak		Yellow	M, D	Mod/Fast	30	15	8	8	6	6	30
Scarlet Oak		Red	M	Moderate	30	15	8	8	6	6	30
Blue Oak ★			D	Slow	30	15	8	8	6	6	30
Valley Oak ★			M, D	Mod/Fast	30	15	8	8	6	6	30
Bur Oak		Various	M, D	Moderate	30	15	8	8	6	6	30
Willow Oak		Various	M	Mod/Fast	30	15	8	8	6	6	30
Red Oak		Red	M	Mod/Fast	30	15	8	8	6	6	30
Shumard Oak		Red	M	Mod/Fast	30	15	8	8	6	6	30
Autumn Gold Ginkgo		Yellow	M	Slow/Mod	25	15	8	8	6	6	30
Musashino Columnar Zelkova		Various	M, D	Mod/Fast	18	10	6	8	6	6	25
Sawleaf Zelkova		Various	M, D	Mod/Fast	30	15	8	8	6	6	30
Village Green Zelkova		Rust Red	M, D	Mod/Fast	30	15	8	8	6	6	30

Medium trees - 26 to 45 feet in height

Common Name	Flowers	Fall Color	Soil Moisture	Growth Rate	Space Betw. Trees	Building Foundation	Sidewalks & Driveways	Air Conditioner	Fence	Undergrnd Utility	Overhead Utility
Trident Maple		Various	M	Mod/Fast	18	15	6	6	6	6	20
Hedge Maple		Yellow	M	Moderate	18	15	6	6	6	6	20
Shantung Maple	Yellow	Various	D	Mod/Fast	15	10	6	6	6	6	20
European Hornbeam		Yellow	M	Slow/Mod	15	15	6	6	6	6	20
Chinese Flame Tree	Yellow	Yellow	D	Mod/Fast	18	10	6	6	6	6	20
Goldenrain Tree	Yellow	Yellow	D	Slow/Mod	18	10	6	6	6	6	20
Tupelo (Sour Gum)		Red	M, W	Moderate	18	15	6	6	6	6	20
Chinese Pistache		Various	M, D	Slow/Mod	25	15	6	6	6	6	20
Little Leaf Linden	Cream	Yellow	M, W	Slow/Mod	20	15	6	6	6	6	20
Pink Dawn Chitalpa	Pink	Yellow	D	Fast	15	10	6	6	6	6	20
Saucer Magnolia	Pink/Purple	Yellow	M	Moderate	15	10	6	6	6	6	20

Small trees - up to 25 feet in height

Common Name	Flowers	Fall Color	Soil Moisture	Growth Rate	Space Betw. Trees	Building Foundation	Sidewalks & Driveways	Air Conditioner	Fence	Undergrnd Utility	Overhead Utility
Eastern Redbud	Pink	Yellow	M	Mod/Fast	12	6	5	3	3	3	3
Chinese Fringe Tree	White	Yellow	M	Moderate	12	6	5	3	3	3	3
Washington Hawthorn	White	Orange	M	Mod/Fast	12	6	5	3	3	3	3
Crape Myrtle	Various	Orange	M, D	Slow/Mod	12	6	4	3	3	3	3
Japanese Crabapple	Pink	Yellow	M	Slow/Mod	12	6	5	3	3	3	3
Prairifire Crabapple	Pink	Red	M	Slow/Mod	12	6	5	3	3	3	3
Japanese Snowbell	White	Yellow	M	Slow/Mod	12	6	5	3	3	3	3
Chaste Tree	Lav/Blue		M, D	Mod/Fast	12	6	5	3	3	3	3
Japanese Maple	Red	Org/Red	M	Slow/Mod	12	6	5	3	3	3	3
Western Redbud ★	Pink	Yellow	D	Mod/Fast	12	6	4	3	3	3	3

★ California Native Tree

Distance from SMUD pad equipment is 8 feet for all trees. • All trees subject to availability

Preferred Soil Moisture: W = Can tolerate wet soil M = Moist soil, well drained D = Requires infrequent deep watering once established

Rate of Growth: Fast = more than 3 ft./year Moderate = 1 to 2 ft./year Slow = less than 1 ft./year

For more information, go to smud.org/shadetrees or sactree.com/trees