Tree Planting Guide

TIP: PREP
- dig hole in advance, if soil is dry fill with water and leave to soak overnight

Dig hole 2 to 4 times the width of the root ball & same depth as root ball

Aerate and loosen tight or crowded root ball
*NOTE: This step is different for non-potted plants, see below

TIP: PLANTING
- a basic garden claw can help loosen roots

*Grow Bag
GBs produce a fibrous root system so no need to loosen the rootball.
1. With a garden knife or pruning saw, remove bag by slicing sides and bottom
2. Peel off pieces of bag
3. Place in hole
4. Backfill as prescribed

*Baled & Burlap (B&B)
With BB plants, it is typically best NOT to mess with the root system.
1. Place in hole
2. Unfold wire cage (if present)
3. Loosen/cut twine around trunk base & peel back burlap from trunk
4. Backfill leaving burlap in place

*Bare Root
1. Carefully untangle roots
2. Spray or soak roots in water (2-3 hours)
3. Dig hole twice as wide as the root spread
4. Build up mound of soil in center of hole to support roots and eliminate air pockets
5. Backfill to match soil depth, be sure NOT bury the graft
6. Gently pull up on trunk & compact soil firmly

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TIP: MULCHING
Mulching can be accomplished with a wide array of materials, each providing their own benefits & drawbacks.
Examples include:
- bark fines & nuggets
- stone (fine, crushed, round, etc.)
  *note: some stone can alter soil pH, this could benefit some plants and harm others
- chopped leaves & grass clippings
  *note: use only debris that are free of weeds & their seed, otherwise you may be creating more work

TIP: WATER
- Water deeply & less frequently (ex. 3 hours at 1/week)
- Place trees on their own irrigation zone

TIP: STAKING
- Allowing a tree to sway will lead to a stronger root system
- Remove stakes after 1 year

NOTE: Staking is typically used ONLY for trees in windy areas or for trees that are top heavy