

Tree Planting

Lake County Factsheet #HYG2101

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There are 10 easy steps to follow to plant a Ball and Burlap (B&B) tree.

1. **Look for electrical wires over your planting location. Contact the utility company if planting a tree under wires.**
2. **Call before you dig: 811 or 1-800-432-4770. Dig a hole twice as large as the root ball and deep enough to have the root flare level, or a few inches above ground level.**
3. **Find the topmost root. This is root flare. This allows you to confirm the hole depth.**



Photo Credit: Bryan Baquiran, Lake County

4. **Trim any damaged or defective branches before you plant. It is easier to reach them now.**



Photo Credit: Bryan Baquiran, Lake County

5. **Place the tree carefully in the hole. Adjust the height to ensure the root flare is at, or a few inches above grade.**



Photo Credit: Bryan Baquiran, Lake County

6. **Remove any plastic, burlap, or basket material. Remove damaged or defective roots.**



Photo Credit: Bryan Baquiran, Lake County

7. **Be sure the tree is straight.**
8. **Back fill by putting the displaced dirt back around the root ball, watering as you go.**



Photo Credit: Bryan Baquiran, Lake County

6. **Add stakes or root anchors partway through the backfill process. For more information about staking options see the resource cited below.**
7. **Add a ring, or 'donut', of mulch around the root zone. Keep the trunk free of mulch. This ring holds water near the roots for the first year.**



Photo Credit: Jamie Daugherty, RHA

Congratulations! You just planted a tree!

For additional information on this topic please visit:

Chapter 11- Planting and Establishing Trees

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep314>

Tree Staking systems

<https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/staking.shtml>

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lake/>