

Choose the right tree.

By following the directions in this brochure, you will find that growing your own tree is fun and easy to do, and doesn't require much time.

- To select the right tree for the right spot, draw a sketch of your lot including any buildings and existing landscape. Ask your nursery person for help to determine the tree's size at maturity, including height, crown spread and root space. Choose trees that have no visible roots circling near the trunk, and branching structures that are well-formed. Plan carefully to accommodate the tree's growth.
- Trees can serve many useful functions such as providing shade, reducing energy costs and cleaning the air. But they also can be a nuisance if not located in the right place.
- For example, before planting consider where flowers and leaves will drop. Avoid planting tall trees under utility lines or in areas where they could interfere with building eaves. Avoid blocking windows or scenic views, covering chimneys and traffic signs or interfering with traffic sight lines. Remember that roots need soil with adequate air and moisture, so avoid planning too close to concrete or asphalt surfaces.

Raising your tree.

A new tree is like a child. It needs care and nurturing on a regular basis. Take time to look at your tree and notice any changes. Here are some tips that will help your tree "grow up."

- Trees have different watering requirements. When they're first planted and taking root, they typically need frequent watering. Check the soil at a depth of two to three inches before watering. If it's dry, water thoroughly. A tree will grow faster when watered weekly for the first half summer and then every two weeks for the balance.
- Consult a professional about fertilizer requirements for the tree you've selected.
- Prune to shape your tree's growth and keep it healthy. Look for a small "branch collar" or swelling at the base of the limb you want to remove. Cut the branch back to the parent limb just outside the collar. Be sure and leave the collar intact.
- To learn more about pruning trees, consult one of the following guides: "Practical Guide to Pruning," H.P. Books; Sunset's "Pruning Handbook," and Ortho's "All About Pruning."

For more information about tree selection, planting and care, contact your local California Certified Nurseryman.

Choose a tree today and get planting!

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United Voices for Healthier Communities



PLANT YOUR TREE!



Swing on it.
Climb in it.
Eat from it.
Lie under it.
Lean on it.
Smell it.
Gaze at it.
Enjoy it.

But first, plant your tree, and above all... care for it!

A welcome addition to the family, it can be knee-high or sky high, and if selected and cared for properly, can add significantly to your property value and improve our environment.

California has hundreds of varieties to select—from the mighty redwood to the fragrant magnolia to the succulent nectar peach.

Trees come in every shape, size and color and depending on the variety, thrive in hot, cold, mild, rainy, snowy, windy, dry, or humid conditions.

No matter what the locale, there is always a tree that works.

RECIPE FOR A TREE

Basic Ingredients

- The right tree: kind and quality
- Topsoil (for rocky soils)
- A shovel, rake and pick ax (optional)
- A hose that will reach the tree
- Mulch
- Two tree stakes and ties (optional)

Eight Easy Steps to Success

1 Dig the proper sized hole for your tree. Make vertical sides as shown in the diagram. Roughen the sides of the hole to allow root penetration. If you're transporting your tree from a container, the hole should be one inch shallower and 6 to 12 inches beyond the root ball.

2 Carefully remove the container just before the tree is put into the hole. Try to move the tree by the root ball instead of the trunk. Minimize the time the roots are exposed to air. Roots circling around the outside of the root ball should be cut vertically in four or five places around the circumference. Roots matted on the root ball bottom should be cut off.

3 Set the root ball on undisturbed soil. Adjust the "best" side of the tree in the direction you want. Make sure

the top surface of the root ball is one inch higher than the natural soil grade. Lay a stick or shovel handle across the hole to see if the root ball is high or low.

4 Fill the hole in and around the root ball with the soil you removed from the hole in Step One. If the soil is filled with rocks, rake out the larger ones. Break up any clods and mix them with good topsoil. Firm the soil around the root ball until the hole is 2/3 full.

5 Fill the remaining space with water. Finish filling the hole with soil, but do not tamp. No fill soil should be put on top of the root ball.

6 Mound what soil is left into a six-inch high berm around the edge of the planting hole. Fill the basin around the tree with water to thoroughly wet and settle the soil.

7 Place a two-to-three inch layer of mulch such as bark or leaves around the tree. Mulch helps to control weeds and retains water in the soil. Keep turf/grass 18 inches away from the trunk.

8 Remove any stake that is next to the tree trunk. Restake your tree only if the tree cannot support itself. Use two stakes and place them 12 inches away from the trunk on either side to support the tree against the wind. This prevents the trunk or branches from rubbing against the stake.

