

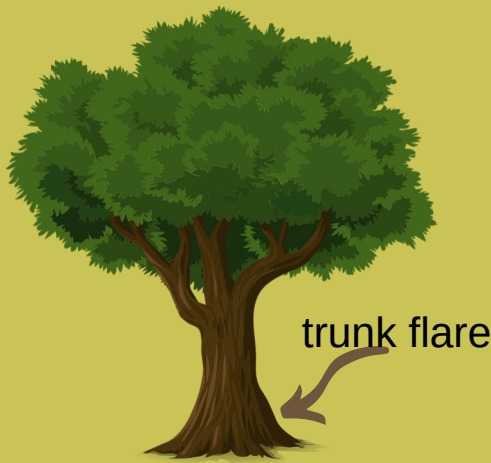
Tree Planting Guide

When to Plant

Bare-rooted trees:

- temperate climates → autumn after leaves drop
- early spring before bud break
- tropical climates → anytime with adequate water

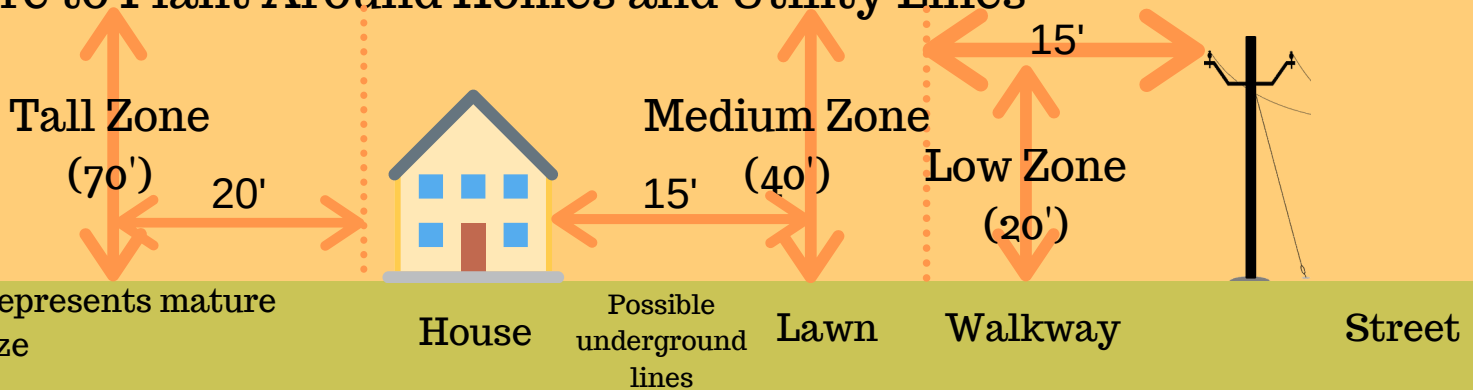
Balled or burlapped trees → throughout the growing season



Steps for Planting

- Make sure to locate all underground utilities first.
- Dig a hole that is 2 to 3 times wider than the root ball but no deeper than the root ball.
- Remove container, and any wrappers, wires and ties.
- Identify the trunk flare where the trunk expands at the base of the tree.
- Set the tree ball on firmly packed soil so there are no air pockets.
- Straighten the tree in the hole.
- Backfill soil, being gentle using water to settle soil around the root ball and do not fill above the trunk flare.
- Use a 2 to 4 inch (5 to 10 cm) layer of mulch that is kept 1 to 2 inches away from the trunk.
- Only if needed, use two opposing, flexible ties on the lower half of the tree allowing trunk movement.
- Water weekly unless there is rain and more frequently if the weather is hot and windy for a year during the growing season.

Where to Plant Around Homes and Utility Lines



Tree Planting Urban Legends

1. Adding a lot of compost-rich soil improves growth.

False: rich soil means roots are less likely to leave the planting hole and the tree fails to anchor properly

2. All newly planted trees must be staked.

False: stakes are only needed when planting in windy areas or steep slopes; reaction to winds encourages the development of strong wood.

