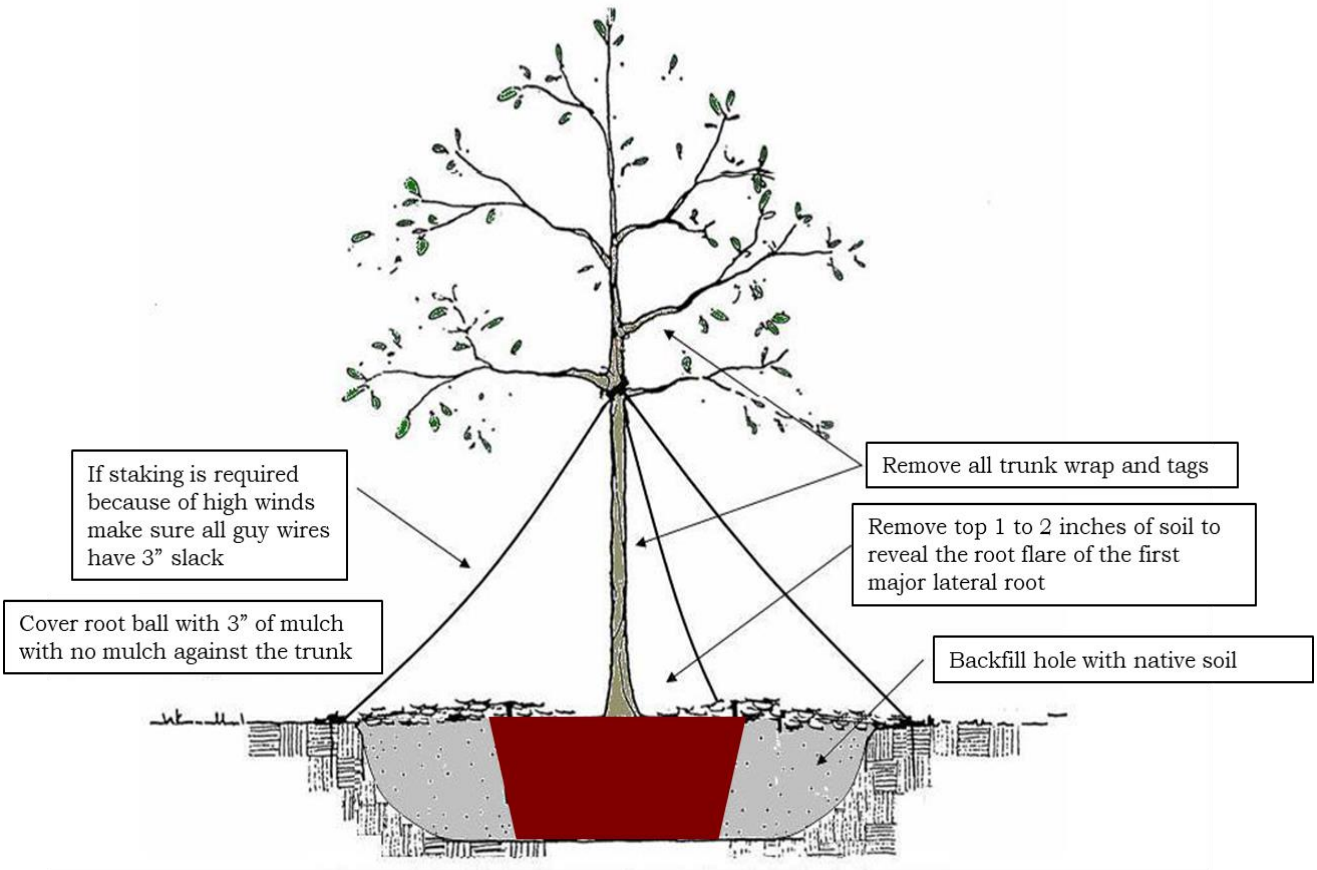
Planting Containerized Trees

Containerized trees may come in many different sizes but and are usually available in 1,3,5,7 10 or 15 gallon sized containers. Ideally the size diameter of the container should be 8-10 inches for every inch of trunk diameter measured at 6" above the ground. A 2" caliper tree should be in a container that has a 16" to 20" opening should be at least a 15 gallon in size. When removing the tree from the container inspect the soil level in the root ball and make sure the first root flair is at the top of the soil. If not, gently remove the soil until the first root flair is evident. Inspect the root ball for girdling roots (roots that circle around the root ball inside the pot) and cut all girdling roots with a sharp knife or pruning shears at both the top and bottom of the root ball. Also make 4 vertical cuts, 1" deep, evenly spaced around the root ball from top to bottom. This should cut many of the girdling roots that may not be obvious. Plant the tree as diagramed below mulching an area at least 3 times the diameter of the hole dug to install the tree. Remember that a containerized trees need to be watered with about 1 gallon of water every week for every 2 gallons of container size and soil moisture needs to be need to be monitored closely.



Excavate hole 3X the diameter of the container and 1" to 2" slightly shallower than the depth of the soil inside. Excavate wider in poor soils or heavy clays. Allow 640 sq.ft. of open soil surface area for each overstory tree and 25' – 40' spacing between trees with a minimum of 8' wide planting area. / Allow 400 sq.ft. of open soil surface area for understory trees and 20' spacing between trees with a minimum 6' wide planting area. (Rev. 9/3/208)