

# PLANTING YOUR SEEDLING TREE FROM THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION FORESTRY PROGRAM

Our goal is to help the community understand the importance of trees and the environmental services they provide while maintaining our city's Urban Forest. This guide will help get your seedling off to a good start.



## POTTING UP YOUR TREE

An option besides planting your seedling directly into the ground is potting your seedling into a larger container.

This will allow your seedling to develop a larger root system and will give your seedling a head start when you plant it in the ground next spring.

If you choose to pot up your tree, remember, your seedling will still need consistent watering and should not be placed in full sun.

For step-by-step directions, scan the QR code below or go to the City's Arbor Day Seedling web page.

## PREP FOR PLANTING

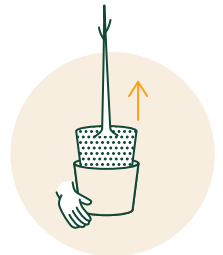
Know your tree's needs & characteristics! Go to the City's Arbor Day Seedling web page for details.

When selecting your seedling, consider sunlight needs, the mature height and spread of the tree, and water needs.

The best location for your seedling will be based on the mature height and spread and the distances to structures, signs, and power lines. Do not plant trees with mature heights of more than 15-20 feet under power lines.

## YOUR SEEDLING CONTAINER

Gently remove the tree and try to keep the soil around the roots intact.



If you can't plant your seedlings right away, keep them in a cool, shaded place until you're ready. Remember to water the trees regularly to prevent the roots from drying out.

## SCAN FOR MORE PLANTING TIPS



**POTTING UP  
SEEDLINGS** aSHORT  
LINKrborday.org/  
bare-root



**POaRBO DAY SEEDLING**  
arbquick link

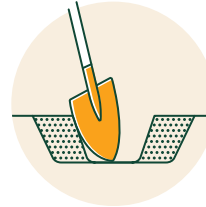
# SET YOUR TREE UP FOR SUCCESS

Pick somewhere away from sidewalks, power lines, buildings, and pipes with plenty of space for roots to expand. For tips on putting the right tree in the right place, head to [arborday.org/righttree](http://arborday.org/righttree).

- 1 A few days before you dig, call 811 to avoid any underground lines.



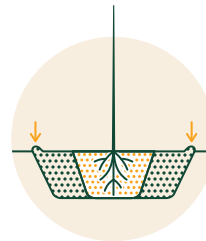
- 2 Dig a hole about three to four times as wide as the container. Dig your hole no deeper than the height of the container.



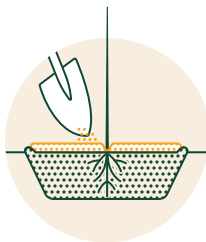
- 3 Center your tree in the hole and adjust the depth so the root collar (where the uppermost roots grow out of the trunk) sits even with the ground.



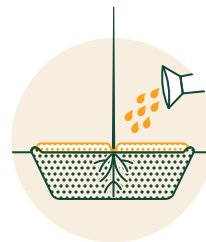
- 4 Using the existing soil, fill and firmly pack the hole until the soil is at ground level. Form a circular ridge out of soil about 1.5 feet from the base of the tree to keep water from running away.



- 5 Remove grass within 3 feet around the tree and add natural mulch about 2 to 4 inches deep. Keep mulch from touching the trunk.



- 6 Water generously every two to four days during the first year. The soil should be moist 6-8 in. below the surface. Water your tree 1-2 times a month in winter if the ground is not frozen.



## FERTILIZER

**Do not** use fertilizer on your young trees. Do not add more than a handful of organic material (like compost) to the planting hole. Doing either may harm your seedling.

## PROTECTION

Consider a small fence using materials like chicken wire to protect trees from wildlife and lawnmowers.



## LONG-TERM WATERING

Most roots are located in the top 12-18 inches of soil. The most water-absorbing roots are located where the canopy extends, not the trunk. If you installed drip irrigation, make sure you are expanding the emitters so that water is being applied at the edge of the canopy.

After the first year and for the life of the tree, apply 1-2 inches of water per week during the growing season, or approximately 10 gallons per inch of trunk diameter. Continue to water the tree 1-2 times a month in winter, when the ground is not frozen.

