

Trees Are an Investment

- Trees help clean the air and reduce energy costs.
- Trees mitigate climate change.
- Trees increase property value and provide habitat for wildlife.
- Trees improve the quality of soil and water.

Selecting the Right Tree

- What are the functions of your tree – shade, privacy, aesthetics – or to provide fruits or nuts?
- Consider tree characteristics – shape, mature height, growth rate, canopy spread, potential root damage and litter type.
- Select trees with genetic resistance to local common pest problems.
- Purchase smallest specimen possible and save money.

Know your tree before you plant!

Choose the Best Location

- Consider distance from buildings, sidewalks, property, and sewer lines.
- Be a good tree neighbor – keep your tree, roots, leaves, and litter on your own property.
- For Tree Resources conduct the following searches:
 - Call Dig Alert – contact 811 before you dig
 - Tree Safety – SDG&E – watch out for utility lines
 - California Fire Safe Council – be safe and prepared



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Trees for Today and Tomorrow



Hotline: 858-822-6910
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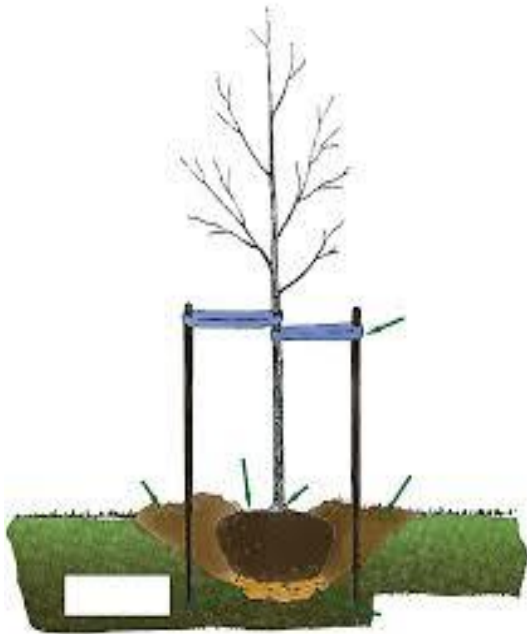
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Choose a Healthy Tree

- Good trees start in the nursery – take the time to carefully inspect trees before buying.
- Check for root health, sturdy branch structure and a strong central leader.
- Look for potential damage – no signs of topping or damage to trunk or limbs.



Planting your tree correctly provides a strong foundation for healthy growth.

Plant Correctly

- Identify root crown of tree and flare where trunk meets roots.
- Dig a shallow, broad planting hole: roughen sides of hole.
- Fill hole with water and let drain into soil – repeat if soil is very dry.
- Slide specimen out of container and scuff up sides of root ball.
- Place tree upright in hole, facing grafting scars away from sun exposure with root crown above soil line.
- Fill hole gently with original dirt and pack firmly.
- Stake only if tree is falling over without support.
- Spread 3-4" of organic mulch around base of tree, kept 3 inches away from trunk.
- Water deeply 3 days after planting and then once a week for 3 weeks.

Caring for Trees

- Train young trees for structure and form.
- **Do Not Top Trees.**
- Once roots are well established, water deeply and infrequently.
- Protect trees from lawn equipment and chemicals.
- Regularly inspect trees for insect damage – if you suspect disease, consult a Certified Arborist.

Tree Mistakes to Avoid

- Topping and poor pruning techniques disfigure trees and make them susceptible to disease.
- Competing plantings such as grass or weeds growing around the base of the tree compete for moisture and nutrients.
- Underwatering trees affects their long-term health; young trees, under five years old, are very vulnerable.