

Caring for your new tree

Picking the right spot:

- Before you decide what kind of tree you want, explore your yard and observe where the sunny, shady, moist and dry spots are. Choose a tree that is suited to the conditions you have for the best chance of success.
- Consider placing your tree in a spot that will block the sun and/or wind to reduce your heating and cooling costs.
- Research how large your tree's canopy will be, what benefits it can offer beyond aesthetics and what kind of care it requires in the short- and long-term.
- Also consider the size of your tree's root system so you can make sure there's room for it to grow without interfering with the foundation of your house, the sidewalk or any essential infrastructure like water, sewer or gas lines. A tree's root system is usually a similar size and shape to the tree's canopy.
- Call BC One Call before you dig at 1-800-474-6886 or visit them online at www.bconecall.ca. Avoiding conflict between tree roots and essential infrastructure can save a lot of time, money and effort in the future.
- Talk to the Park Board's arborists at the Tree sale for advice about the tree you've chosen



Planting your tree:

- Dig a saucer-shaped hole about 3x as wide as your tree and as deep as the root ball, which is the mass of soil the tree is living in. Pile the soil from the hole to one side
- Remove the tree from its pot; if the roots are growing in a circle around the root ball, loosen them with your fingers to encourage them to grow outward instead of in a spiral, trying not to break too many

- Place the tree in the hole with its trunk facing straight up, making sure the top of the root ball is even with the ground surface—if it's too low in the hole, it may become water-logged and mouldy and if it's too high, it may dry out
- Fill the gaps between the root ball and the edge of the hole with the reserved soil, making sure to fill any air holes by gently compacting the soil as you replace it
- Fill the hole to the top of the root ball without piling soil up the trunk of the tree; gently stamp on the new soil and edges of the root ball with your foot to make sure the tree is firmly in place



Keeping your tree healthy:

- Mulch around the base of your tree with two to four inches of compost or wood chips, making sure not to pile them up the trunk of the tree; this will help keep the soil from drying out
- Avoid using a weed whacker on the base of your tree; damage to the trunk can lead to disease, weakness or death
- In the dry summer season, water your new tree twice per week for 5 minutes for its first two years. After that, you can water less frequently, but with Vancouver's dry summers, your tree may need water for its first 5 years
- Consider using an organic, slow-release fertilizer one or two times per year to help augment the nutrient content in your soil. Your local nursery can help you understand what type of soil you have and what additions it might need.

