



In Texas, we have lost many trees due to back-to-back summer droughts and the damage from winter storms. For those of you replacing trees, October and November are ideal times to plant new trees. Fall planting allows the tree to root into the surrounding soil during the winter which leads to a much higher probability of survival during the following summer's heat.

Step one in this process is to select a good- quality tree. We recommend that you locate a local nursery with a robust inventory of 2 ½ - 3 ½ inch trunk diameter trees. The diameter (width of the trunk) should be measured at 6 inches above ground level. These trees should be 12' – 16' in height and 4' – 6' in width (canopy). Trees should be well-branched meaning that the branches should be evenly spaced. Avoid trees with a double leader (two equal branches in the middle of the tree forming a "Y"). The first branches should start at a height of 5' – 7' up from ground level. Trees that usually fit these guidelines are 65-gallon to 100-gallon container trees that should be inspected to make sure they are not root bound.

B&B trees (balled and with burlap wrap) should have a root ball width of 28 to 38 inches and a depth of 24 to 30 inches.



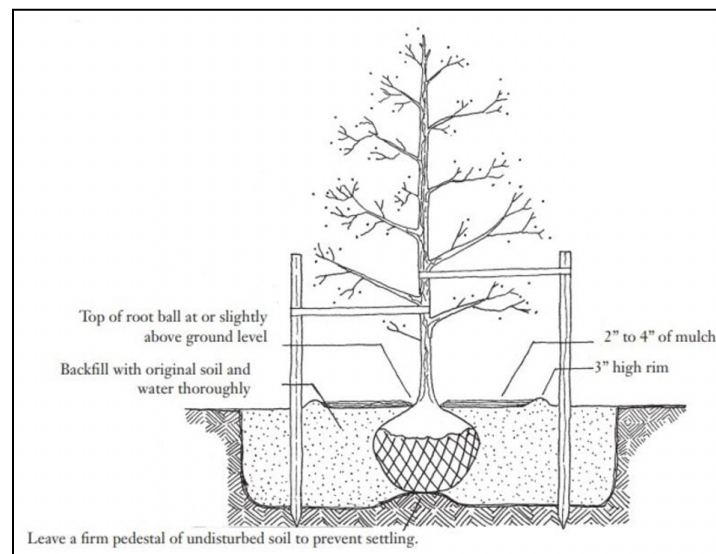
Container Tree



B&B Tree

Step two is to plant the tree correctly. For most homeowners, we suggest hiring professionals to install your tree(s). Tree installers plant trees daily and have the needed equipment to handle and plant them correctly. Whether you install or have a professional provide this service, the tree should be planted 2" to 4" higher than the existing soil line so that when the tree settles it will be even with

the soil level. Additionally, assure that the tree is staked in 3 directions to prevent strong winds and storms from blowing it over until it is fully established which usually takes approximately a full year.



Correct Tree Planting

Step three is critical for your new tree. Water the tree thoroughly after planting, and then water only once or twice a week. Do not overwater these trees. The tree company that plants your tree can provide watering instructions for the soils in your yard.

Step four is the proper fertilization of your tree. Fertilize after planting and at least 3 times per year for the first three years. After three years, fertilize your trees once or twice per year.

Use a fertilizer with a high first number (nitrogen) on the fertilizer bag and read to ensure it is a **slow-release** fertilizer. Apply $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of fertilizer per inch of trunk diameter. Spread the fertilizer evenly from the tree's trunk to 2 feet past the tree's drip line then water the fertilizer in thoroughly.

Trees can be mulched after planting but do not get carried away with too much mulch. Mulch should be kept pulled back from the trunk and we recommend a mulch depth of no more than 2 inches.

Tree planting can be challenging but the above detailed information can serve as a valuable guide. Although you may research and use any tree supplier and installer of your choice, the tree sources listed below are reputable and have been endorsed by the landscape maintenance provider for Wolf Ranch.

SiteOne Landscape Supply

1938 Waukesha Dr.
Pflugerville, TX 78660
(512) 989-7510

Leaf Landscape Supply

13292 Pond Spring Rd.

Austin, TX 78729

(512) 599-4500