



Planting your tree

1. Getting Ready to Plant

Keep your tree in the bag, in a cool place until you are ready to soak the roots. Fill a large container, like a garbage can, with enough water to cover the roots of your new tree. Before planting, soak the roots for several hours but no longer than 24 hours. This ensures that the root system has absorbed the maximum amount of water.

2. Preparing the Site

Dig a hole that's at least 6" wider than the root system and about as deep as the point where the roots flare from the trunk. Spread out the roots. If you have an unusually long root, it may be pruned back. Also check for any broken or damaged roots at this time and cut them off cleanly. Set your tree in the hole and make sure that it is deep enough. See that the **top root sits one inch below the soil surface.**

3. Planting and Fertilizing

After your tree has been properly placed, fill the hole about half way with soil. Water until the soil looks "soupy" to remove any air pockets. Fill the rest of the hole with soil and smooth the top so that water will run toward the tree. **Water thoroughly** (3-to-4 gallons), once every 7-10 days if conditions are dry or windy, or if you have sandy soil. Over watering does more harm than good. Mulching will help to retain moisture but leave a 3-4" ring around the trunk mulch free. Do not apply fertilizer when planting. Apply slow release fertilizer in the **second** growing season.

It is best to plant your new tree within 24 hours. If that is not possible keep it in the bag, in a cool, dark place such as a garage, protected from freezing and drying out.

Remember:

Protect your tree from critters. Most likely you will need to protect your tree with tree wrap and fencing if mice, voles and deer are problems in your neighborhood.



Pruning your apple tree

Information below from Tom Callahan at Adams County Nursery
<http://www.acnursery.com/>

Initial pruning if needed

After planting your tree, check your tree to see it has branching in the range of 20-30 inches above the thick graft union on the rootstock. You need at least 4 branches.

If your tree has less than 4 branches, or no branches where you want branches, then cut the main trunk, at an angle, right above a bud, at a height between 32 and 34 inches from the graft union on the rootstock. If then the tree has only once branch, prune that off, too (prune on the outside of the growth ring). Then rub off the 2nd and 3rd buds from the top of the tree. This will cause the tree to begin branching 6 inches below the cut.

Too high branches

If the branches are too high on the tree (you want branching to begin 24-30 inches up the trunk), then cut the tree back to 32-34 inches, just above a bud, and rub off the 2nd and 3rd buds, as above.

Not enough branches

1 or 2 branches on a tree are not enough to produce a good tree. Cut it down to 32-34 inches and rub off the 2nd and 3rd bud, as above. You want the tree to begin making branches. This will cause the tree to put out new branches 6 inches below the cut.

4-5 branches already

If you have 4 or 5 branches in an area where you want them, do no pruning.

Tree does not grow

Please see our easy, but important, online instructions for successfully planting fruit trees and bushes at http://www.duluthcommunitygarden.org/res_frutgrowing.html. The Duluth Community Garden Program will have limited ability to replace your tree or shrub if it fails to grow after being planted properly, and you must notify the Duluth Community Garden before June 1, 2012 of any problems. Call 722-4583.

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