

Fall is a great time to plant trees. The weather is cooler and ideal for the tree's transition into its new environment. To maximize your chances of success please consider these important steps.

- 1) Pick the right tree for the site. Think about the amount of space in the area where you want a tree. Can it accommodate a large maturing species like an oak or would a small to medium maturing type like a redbud be more appropriate? There are many other factors about the site and the tree to consider. Feel free to contact me for species recommendations.
- 2) Locate the trunk flare where the trunk transitions into the roots. You may have to remove soil from the top of the root ball to locate the trunk flare.
- 3) Dig the hole at least 2-3 times the width of the root ball. The depth of the hole is the height of the root ball after you've located the trunk flare. Keep the soil you dig out of the hole because you will use it later to fill in around the new tree.
- 4) Break up the soil you removed from the hole into very small particles.
- 5) Remove all materials from the root ball. These items may include a container, burlap, wire cage, rope, and twine.
- 6) Place the tree in the hole. The tree is at the correct depth when the trunk flare is level with the ground. After checking and/or adjusting the depth of the hole, fill in around the root ball with the soil you excavated from the hole.
- 7) Apply 2-3 inches of mulch around the new tree but not touching the trunk.
- 8) Use a rain gauge to monitor precipitation. Ensure that the tree receives about an inch of water per week for the first year or so. This water can be from rain or irrigation. Use a sprinkler to irrigate. Don't water with the hose at the base of the tree. This is water wasteful and only waters a limited area.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact DJ Scully, U.K., Campbell County Extension Agent for Natural Resources and Environmental Management / I.S.A Certified Arborist. Telephone: (859) 572-2600 or email: djscully@uky.edu