



TERRA  
SOMBRA **FARMS**

## Tree Information & Tree Planting Guide

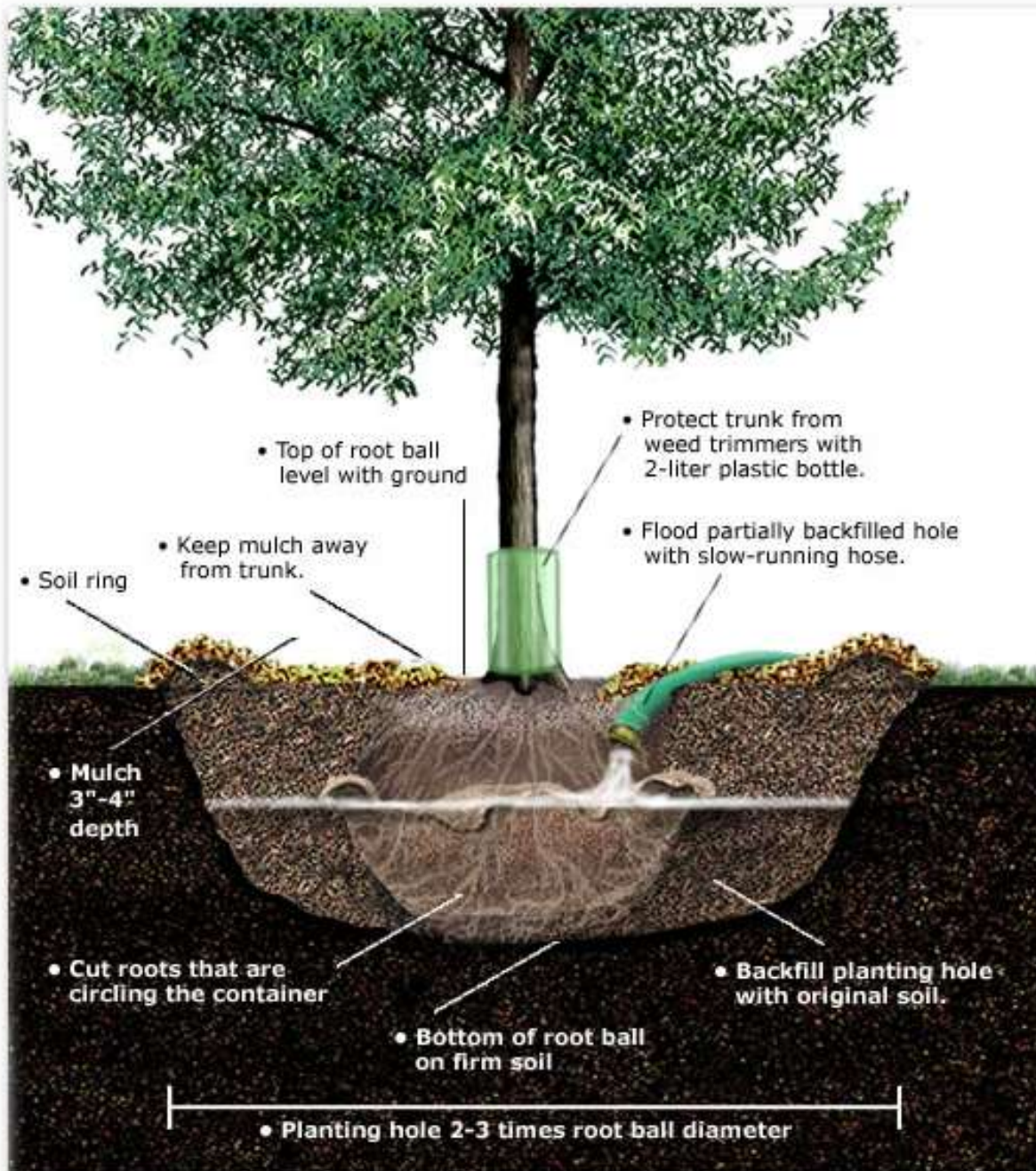
*Native Tree Liners & Contract Growing*

[howdy@terrasombrafarms.com](mailto:howdy@terrasombrafarms.com)

713 659 9599

1243 Reese Ln, Columbus, TX 78934

## Plant Your Tree Properly



### Tree Planting Instructions

See the video: <https://youtu.be/Wveb4B2LDW0>

Best times to plant a tree in Texas is late November through late February, but best before Valentine's Day.

### 1) Select the right tree for your location.

Use a tree that will grow well in your area. Make sure it has plenty of room—vertically and horizontally—for the canopy and roots to grow. Consider planting evergreen trees on the north side of your home to block winter winds and deciduous on the south side to offer shade in the summer and allow the sun's rays to warm your home in the winter when the leaves are off.

### 2) Dig the hole at least twice as wide as the root ball.

Dig a square hole **no deeper** than the root ball. This keeps the roots from settling too deep while still allowing them to penetrate the surrounding soil.

### 3) Fill the empty hole with water to check drainage.

If it takes longer than 24 hours to drain due to clay under soil, select another site. A tree will die if its roots are underwater for long periods of time.

### 4) Only fertilize with Davey Tree Arbor Green Pro 30-10-7 Fertilizer

This comes in big bags for professional use, so if this is not available to you, do not fertilize in the first year as nitrogen released too quickly will burn roots and leaves resulting in permanent damage to your tree. Spread ¼ cup of Davey Arbor Green in hole. Feel free to add mycorrhizal supplement per manufacturer's recommendations. MicroLife is available in many nursery stores. Careful to choose one without additional fertilizer. Use no other soil amendments.

### 5) Only if necessary, prune sparingly with sharp pruners.

Remove only dead, broken and diseased branches and roots that are crushed and, or circling around the main stem. Removing even a small portion of healthy canopy actually slows root growth and delays establishment. A thoughtfully selected tree shouldn't need to be pruned.

### 6) Remove pot and all foreign materials from the root ball.

To remove the tree from its container, lay on its side and place your foot on the side and firmly but gently roll, turn a ¼ turn and repeat, 2-3 times to loosen the soil from pot edges, then gently remove the tree. Remove all wire, twine, cords, containers and non-biodegradable bags. If planting a tree with roots wrapped in burlap, remove as much of the burlap as possible. This enables water and nutrients to get to the roots and the roots to grow out.

### 7) Gently pry roots from the container soil.

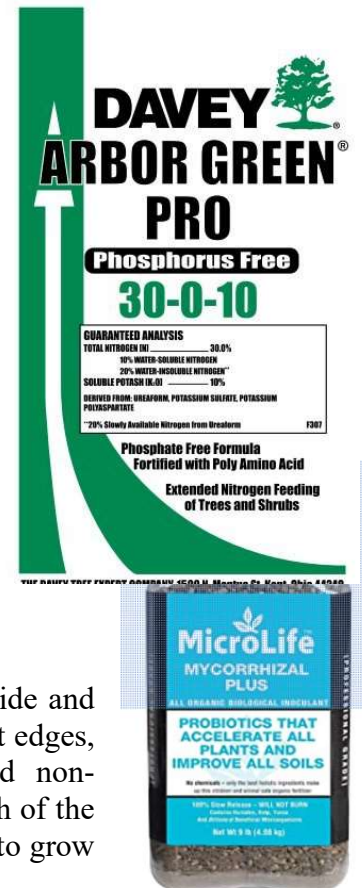
Run your gloved hand over the sides of the rootball with an upward motion to loosen roots and remove a bit of the container soil. Do this over the hole. If you identify any circling roots, prune them. Do the same to the bottom of the rootball.

### 8) Set tree in hole with the root collar (just above the roots) slightly above natural grade.

Planting too deeply is a leading cause of mortality in newly planted trees. Don't pick up the tree by the trunk. Always handle by the container or root ball.

### 9) Gently fill the hole with the same soil that came out of the hole.

Do not add soil amendments. Settle the soil with water by adding slow running water when hole is half-filled and again when completed. Packing the soil damages and breaks fine roots. Use extra soil to build a circular dam around the tree just outside the hole so that water collects rather than runs off.



**10) Stake the tree only if necessary.**

Staking is rarely necessary and only for larger trees. If you stake, remove within a year.

**11) Mulch around the tree at least out to the drip line, two to three inches deep and up to but not touching the trunk.**

Wood chips, pine bark, leaf litter and hay are great mulches. Mulching keeps soil temperature steady, boosts soil moisture retention, and keeps weeds at bay. Organic mulches add nutrients to the soil as they decompose.

**12) Water the tree for at least the first two years, but don't over water.**

A newly planted tree requires six to eight gallons of water for every diameter inch of trunk—per week. A thorough soaking is much better than light, frequent watering. During extended droughts or extremely high temperatures, water more often, but deeply. In general, water a gallon a day the first 2 weeks, then 2 times a week for the first 2-3 months. If growing vigorously, it means your roots have taken off so you can move to once per week unless you experience drought or extreme temperatures. Continue this for the first 2 years. After that, your native Texas shade tree will be naturalized and watering is unnecessary.

**13) Protect the tree from animals and humans.**

To protect your tree from deer, livestock, or accidentally being run over or whacked down with a weed-eater, use wire mesh about 4 feet tall made into a circular fence about 3 feet in diameter. Stake the protective fence to the ground. For larger trees that are less likely to succumb to animal or accidental damage, consider a trunk collar to protect the base from weed-eaters.