

PLANTING A TREE

LOCATION – Plant a tree where shade is desired, where messiness is not an issue, and where watering needs can be met.

SPACE – Be sure the location has enough space for the tree to grow and spread its branches.

TIMING – Fall is the idea season to plant a tree. Spring is also acceptable. Avoid planting in mid-summer.

DIGGING THE HOLE – The hole should not be deeper than the tree's root ball, but it should be wider. Break up the edges of the soil ball. Back-fill the hole with soil from the site, use little or no additives.

ESTABLISHMENT – All trees will need a period of regular watering to establish. Reduce watering after a couple weeks. Supplemental watering may be needed for two years to complete establishment.

STAKING – Begin with a tree from the nursery which can stand on its own. If staking is necessary, do so properly, allowing the tree to flex. Wean the tree off the stake as soon as possible.

FERTILIZER – Most desert trees require little or no fertilizer. Citrus and non-native trees should be fertilized several times during the growing season. Do not fertilize newly-planted trees.