

Bare Root Tree Program

How to Plant and Care for Your Tree



“The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Town of Carleton Place

Jim McCready

Forester/Certified Arborist

Vice Chair of Urban Forest River Corridor Committee



Thank you for purchasing your bare root tree!

Trees make our world beautiful and provide us with many obvious benefits - shade, privacy, increased property values, shelter and food for birds and other small creatures, and even a place for childhood tree houses and great memories.

Besides these obvious benefits, trees also contribute to the health of our planet. They clean the air by giving off oxygen, store carbon, and recycle moisture into the atmosphere. Trees also help prevent soil erosion, modify temperatures, and act as windbreaks.

Planting trees is not only a nice thing to do - it's one way each of us can help improve the environment. Tree planting is not difficult if you remember to follow these simple steps and "keep the green side up!"



Presentation

1. How to Plant Your Tree

- Plan
- Prepare the Spot
- Minimize Stress to the Tree
- Planting
- Staking
- Mulching

2. Taking Care of Your Tree

- Watering
- Fertilizing
- Pruning

3. Where & When to Get Your Tree

4. Questions

5. Live Planting Presentation on May 2nd!

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Before you dig, contact OntarioOneCall to have underground utilities located and marked. (OntarioOneCall.ca)



Step 1 - Plan Ahead

Trees should be planted in the dormant seasons spring and fall

- What will the tree look like when full grown?
 - How tall will it be?
 - What shape will it have?
- Be conscious of scale; large trees can overpower a small property
- Don't plant tall trees near overhead utility lines
- Dig the hole before you pick up your tree



Step 1 - Plan Ahead

Recommended distance from hydro lines

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Small Trees (under 7m) | 2m (6.5ft) |
| Medium Trees (7-18m) | 6m (20ft) |
| Large Trees (over 18m) | 12m (40ft) |

Recommended distance from house

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Small Trees (under 7m) | 3m (10ft) |
| Medium Trees (7-18m) | 4m (13ft) |
| Large Trees (over 18m) | 5m (16ft) |



Step 2 - Prepare the Planting Spot

- Prepare before getting the tree
- Remove grass, weeds, ground cover within a 50cm radius of planting hole
- Dig hole at least twice the size of tree roots & to a depth that the tree was planted in the nursery
- Roughen sides of the hole to allow root penetration & growth



Step 3 - Minimize Stress

- **Protect the tree during transport**
 - You will be planting Bareroot trees
 - Must keep the roots moist at all times until planted
 - Use wet burlap, mulch, wet leaves, moss or wood chips
 - Others not in the program most likely will be planting container stock
- **Be careful not to damage branches during transportation**



Step 4 - Prepare For Root Growth

- Plant the tree as soon as you get home
- Straighten roots to prevent doubling under, crowding & crossing
- Don't expose roots to direct sunlight or drying winds for more than a minute to avoid damaging the fine root hairs



Step 5 - Plant Your Tree

- Place root crown on the mound you created & allow the roots to spread over & down the sides
- Gently pack soil around roots until hole is 2/3 full.
- Use the parent soil you removed to plant the tree
- Stomp on the soil to remove the air pocket
- Fill remaining space with water & allow soil to settle & the hole to drain
- Finish filling the hole with soil & create a ridge of soil around the tree



Step 6 - Staking Your Tree

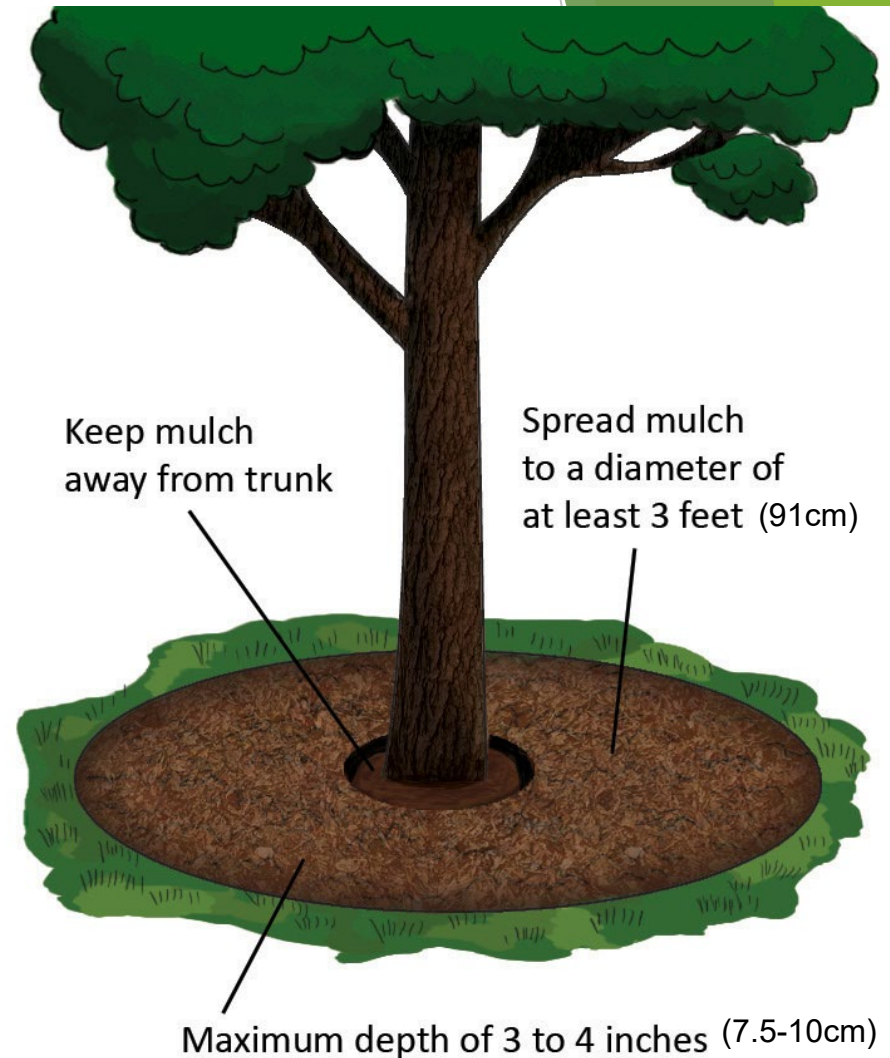
- Studies have shown that trees establish more quickly and develop stronger trunks and root systems if they are not staked
- Planting bareroot stock requires staking;-windy, shallow soil
- One or two stakes with flexible tie material will hold tree upright and minimize damage to the trunk and still allow movement
- Remove stakes after first year of growth



Step 7 - Mulching

One of the best things to do for your tree. Mulch is organic matter spread around the base of the tree

- Helps hold moisture, moderate soil temperature extremes, reduce weed competition
- Common mulches are leaf litter, wood chips, shredded bark and peat moss
- Keeps the whipper-snipper away
- **Don't Volcano**



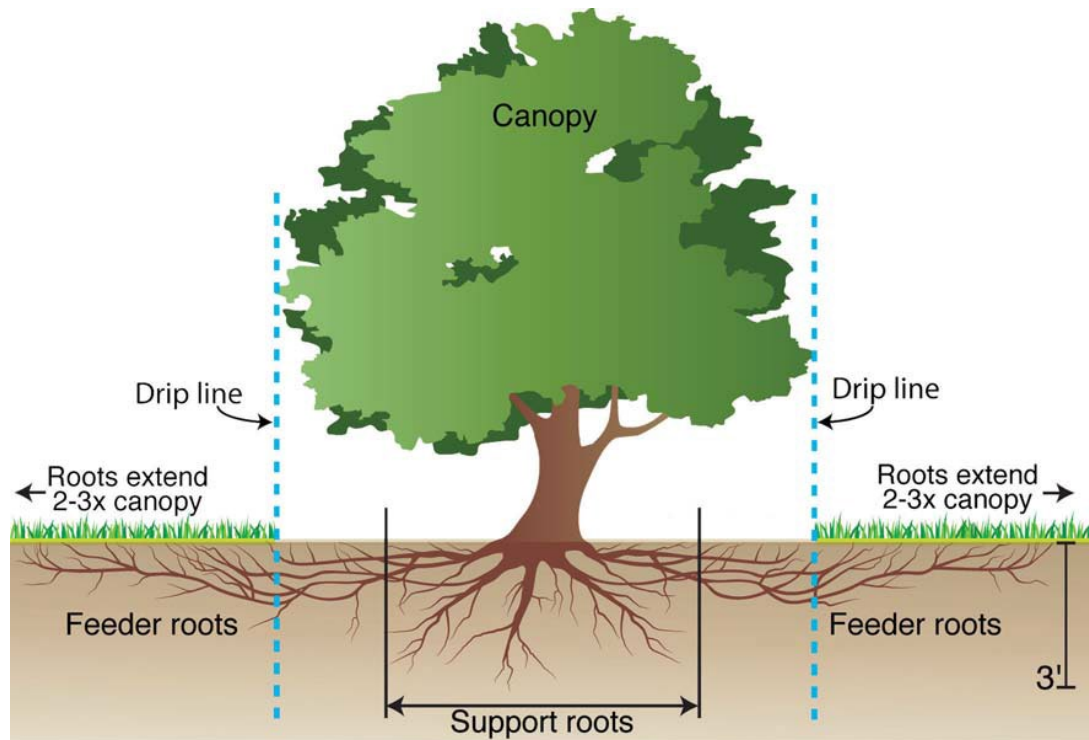
Maintenance - Watering

- Watering your lawn does not water your tree
- You want the roots to grow down and not be on the surface, it would be more vulnerable to drought
- Infrequent deep soakings encourages production of a deeper root system
- Take nozzle off the hose and allow to trickle for 2 hours
- Water once a week, barring rain and more often during hot spells.
- Continue until mid fall



Maintenance - Fertilizing

- Should not fertilize the first year as ineffective until the roots get established- You can apply bone meal
- In years after planting apply a slow release nitrogen
- Fast acting fertilizer is best applied in the spring so that new growth is stimulated
- Good option is use fertilizer stakes

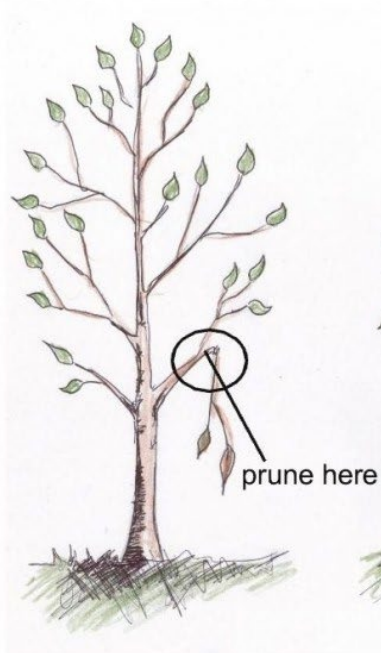


Maintenance - Pruning

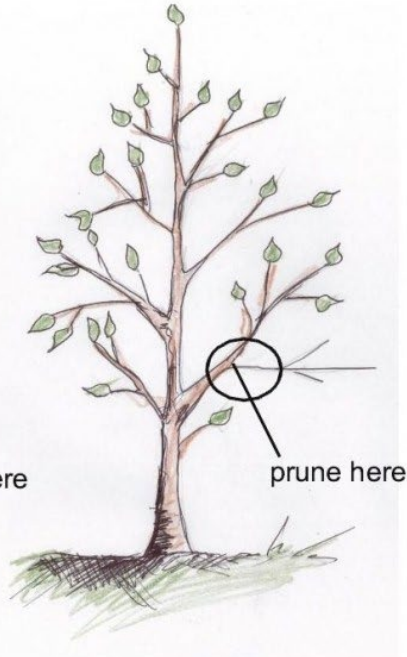
Prune at planting - improves branch spacing and promote a strong structure

- Annual pruning - start when the tree is young
- Deciduous trees should be pruned when dormant (late fall or early spring (exceptions are birch and maple - prune these when leaves are fully grown))

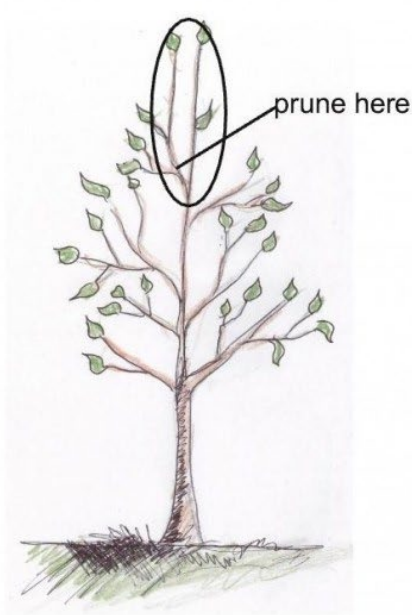
Broken Limbs



Dead Limbs

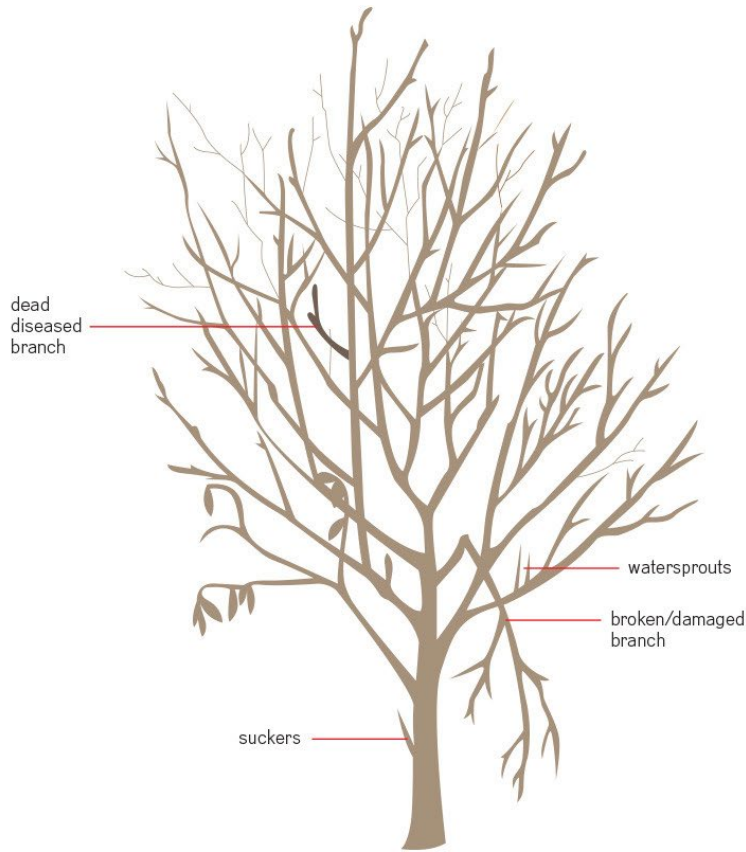


Two Leaders



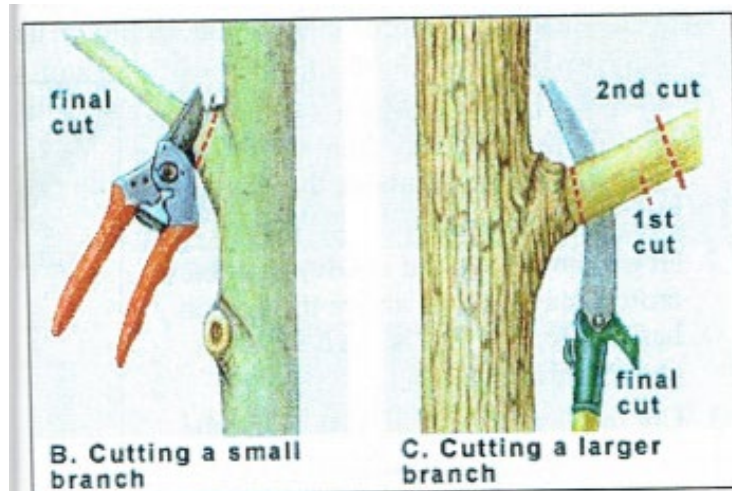
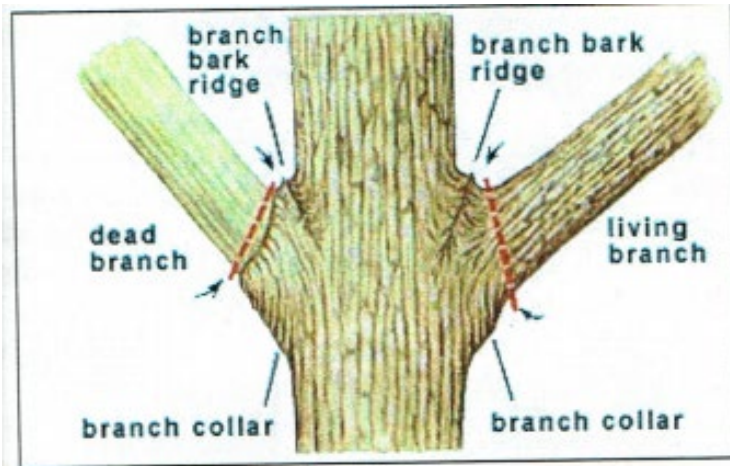
Taking Care of Your Tree - Pruning (cont'd)

- Remove dead, damaged, diseased, weak & thin or rubbing branches
- Remove water sprouts from the trunk & main branches & suckers from the trunk base or roots.



Pruning Method

Tree Wrapping



Where to Get Your Tree

- Trees can be purchased at <https://online.carletonplace.ca/view/environmental-programs/entry/bare-root-tree-program-7940>
- Pick up tree(s) at the Carleton Place Nursery, 7164 County Road 29.
- Residents must present their PDF vouchers at the Nursery, printed or electronic.
- Trees must be picked up by **May 30th**, 2026



Live Planting Presentation

What?

Learn how to plant and maintain your tree

Where?

Carleton Place Arena Parking Lot

When?

Saturday, May 2nd, 9am



**NO REFUNDS - ONCE YOU
HAVE COLLECTED THE TREE
FROM THE NURSERY THE
TOWN WILL NOT PROVIDE
ANY REFUNDS OR
EXCHANGES.**



**IF YOU DO NOT COLLECT
YOUR TREE BY THE
DEADLINE PROVIDED, THE
TOWN WILL CONSIDER
YOUR TREE A DONATION
AND PLANT IT WITHIN THE
COMMUNITY.**



Questions

Questions



Contact Information

▪If you have any additional questions, feel free to reach out to any of the following:

Jim McCready
Certified Arborist/Registered Forester
jdmccready@rogers.com

Mark Hinton
Town Councillor
mhinton@carletonplace.ca

Liam MacIntosh
Public Works Technician
lmacintosh@carletonplace.ca