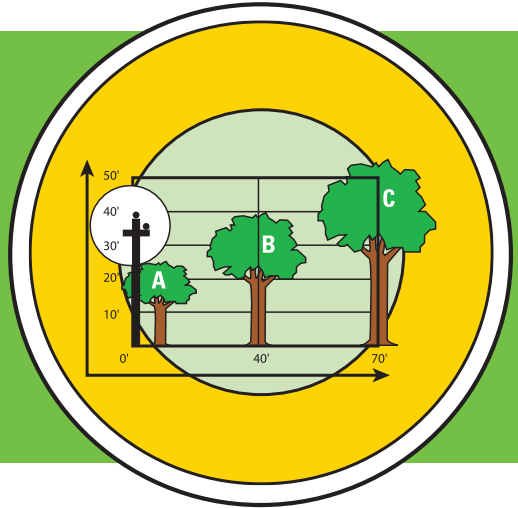




# Planting guide



- A. Small trees (less than 25 feet tall) such as crabapple, redbud, serviceberry and amur maple can be planted under power lines.
- B. Medium trees (up to 40 feet tall), such as birch, linden, fir and arborvitae should be planted at least 40 feet away.
- C. Large trees (more than 40 feet tall) such as maple, oak, tulip tree, spruce and pine should be planted at least 70 feet away.



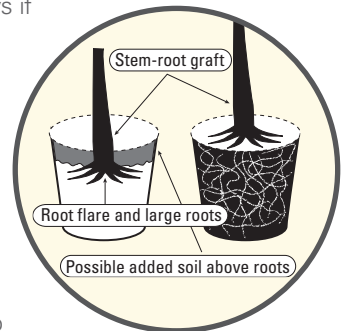
## Tips for proper planting of containerized trees

### Handling and storing your tree:

- Always handle your tree by its container to prevent damage to the root mass and base of the trunk.
- Keep your tree in a shaded location and maintain moist roots until planted.
- It's best to plant your tree as soon as you arrive home. But containerized trees can be stored for seven to 14 days if the roots are kept moist.

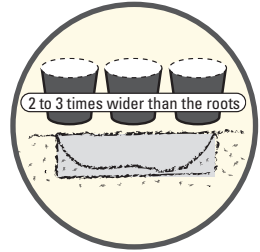
### Planting:

- Locate the large supporting roots within the container. They may be visible on the surface or might be covered by a couple inches of soil.
- These large supporting roots will help you identify the correct depth for the hole.
- Planting too deeply causes the premature death of trees from roots wrapping around the root ball. It also increases the likelihood of your tree falling over in high winds. Locate where the trunk flares out and becomes the roots of the tree. This spot, called the root collar, should be at ground level.



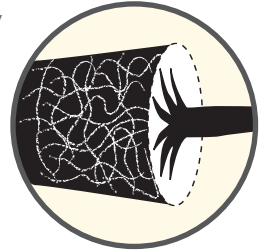
### Size and shape of the hole:

- The diameter of the hole should be two to three times the width of the container.
- Typically it should be 10-12 inches deep, but look for the stem-root graft on your tree. Planting depth should keep the root collar even with the ground once planted.



### Inspect root mass for circling and girdling roots:

- Place the tree on its side and remove the entire container.
- If the tree is pot-bound and has roots circling the root mass, cut off the entire outside quarter inch of the root mass, including the bottom, with a sharp shovel or pruning saw.
- Loosen up surface roots with your fingers and straighten out any large roots.
- Before backfilling the planting hole, make sure the tree is straight.



### Backfilling the hole:

- Do not substitute soil with mulch, compost or fertilizers.
- Backfill the planting hole, taking care to break up soil chunks.
- Lightly step around the tree base to firm up soil.

### Mulching:

- Organic mulch, such as composted wood chips, enhances tree growth.
- Place three to four inches of organic mulch around the tree in a saucer shape, 18 to 36 inches wide.
- Keep mulch three inches away from the base of the tree to prevent moisture buildup on the bark.



### Initial watering:

- Slowly and thoroughly water the tree to eliminate air pockets in the soil.
- Initial watering should be approximately 10 to 15 gallons or until water stands for a few seconds.
- Water is critical for tree survival during the first few years.
- Water two gallons for every inch diameter of the tree trunk one to three times per week for the first two years. During drought, water more frequently.



Know what's below.  
**Call before you dig.**

## Call before you dig. It's Iowa law!

Avoid potential hazards by calling Iowa One Call at 811 or visiting [iowaonecall.com](http://iowaonecall.com) at least 48 hours in advance of your tree planting. They will assist you (free of charge) in locating underground utilities. If you are planting between the sidewalk and curb, first contact your local public works or forestry department to secure the necessary permits.