



City of New York
Parks & Recreation
Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Adrian Benepe, Commissioner

milliontreesNYC
A PLANYC INITIATIVE WITH NYC PARKS AND THE NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT

How To Plant a Container Tree

Parks Natural Resources Group

PlaNYC Reforestation Program

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1. Dig A Hole:

The hole should be as deep as the container, and about 2 times as wide. If the hole is not wide enough, use a shovel to make it wider.

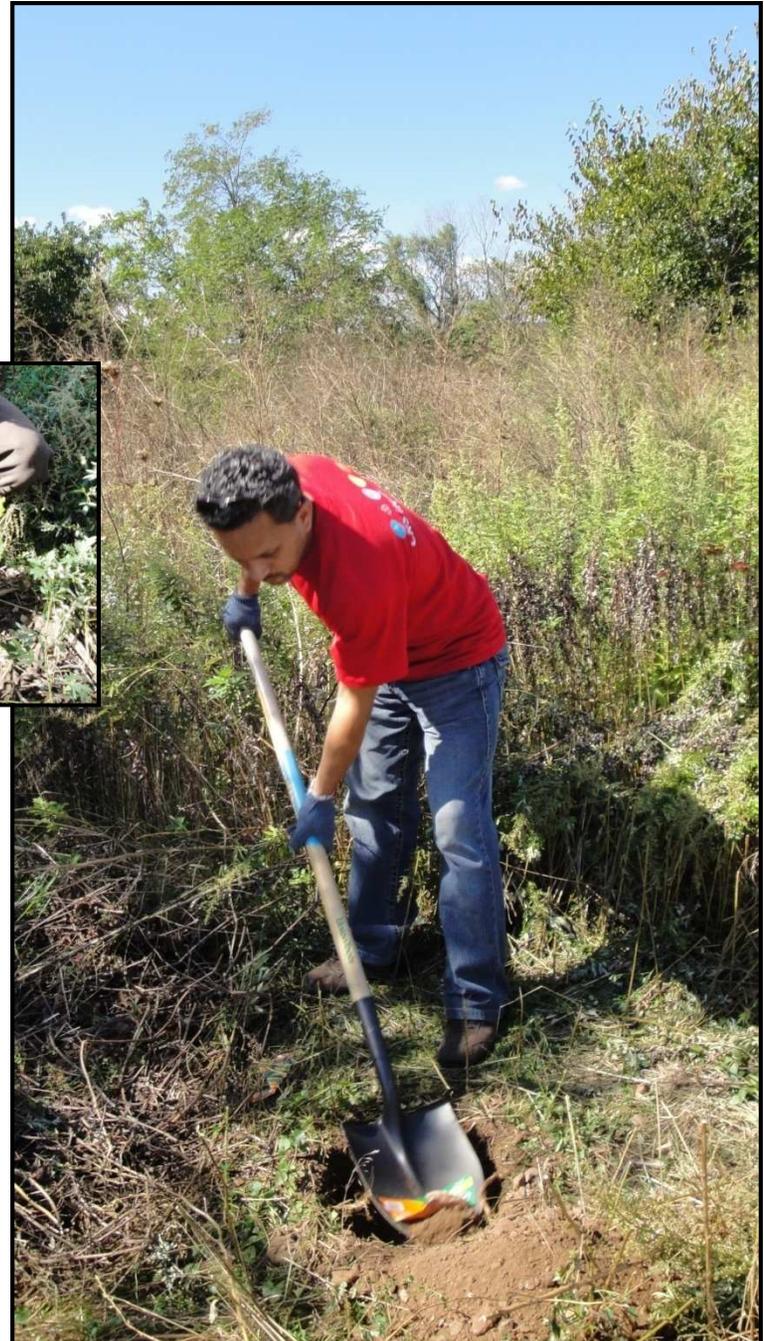
Place the plant in the container in the hole to test depth - if the level of the ground is even with the level of the top of the container, you are at the correct depth.



Adjust the depth of the hole so the base of the tree is level with the ground either by removing or adding soil to the hole.

If needed, add compost:

If the soil is highly compacted or clay, add in compost at the bottom of the hole and mix in with the existing soil.



2. Remove tree from container & loosen roots:

Carefully remove container from its pot holding it around the base of the trunk. Once the tree is out of its pot, loosen up the dirt and roots so that it's not shaped like a pot anymore and is ready for its new home.

Unwind roots so that they will grow outward rather than in a circle.

Put the container where you can find it again. After planting your tree, please bring containers to the designated container location for reuse or recycling.



3. Place tree carefully in hole & fill in around it with soil:

Making sure to keep the trunk upright, fill in around the root ball. Press soil down firmly with your fingers to eliminate air pockets, and continue filling until the soil in your hole is level with the surrounding ground and even with the top of the root ball.

When done, Tug gently at the top of your tree. If it comes out, you did not fill in firmly enough – firm more soil around the tree.

If it stays put, congratulations!



4. Mulch the root zone:

Mulch helps to keep moisture in the soil, and slowly improves it over time. Mulch is most appropriate on level, dry sites.

If your site has mulch, place a 2 inch layer of mulch around the base of the tree extending slightly beyond the area dug for the root ball.

Note: Do not leave mulch touching the base of the tree, as it may cause rot over time.

Water:

Trees need to be watered soon after planting.

If rain is not in the forecast, trees should be watered.

