Choose where you want your plant to be placed. Expose bare soil in the planting area by raking or removing leaves, mulch, sod and other debris.

Dig a hole that is roughly twice as wide and as deep as the pot. The sides of the hole should be straight up and down, not angled toward the middle.

Place the pot on its side and apply light pressure to the sides of the pot while rolling it around. Trim off roots that are growing out holes in the bottom or sides.

Turn the plant upside down, holding it with one hand against the top of the soil and the other holding onto the pot. Gently shake the plant out. If the pot doesn’t slide off easily, repeat step 3.

Gently tussle the soil to loosen the root ball. If the root system is dry, stop and water it well before continuing. Take care to not expose the root tips for a prolonged period of time, especially to direct sunlight.

Place the plant in the hole. The root collar should be at the same grade as the surrounding soil surface. Use some of the soil removed from the hole to adjust the depth of the hole if needed.

Backfill with the soil excavated from the hole.

— Take care to remove any large amounts of organic material (leaves, twigs, mulch, etc.).
— Using your hands, gently compact the backfilled soil.
— Don’t compact the soil too much, otherwise water won’t infiltrate to the roots.
— Final grade of the filled planting hole should be at the same level as the surrounding ground.

It’s recommended that coarse mulch, to a depth of 4-6”, be spread around the root zone of the plant. Take care to keep mulch away from the trunk of woody plants.

See illustration on back side.
Planting a Container-Grown Tree

**NOTES:**
1. PLANTING PIT TO BE AT LEAST TWICE THE WIDTH OF ROOTBALL
2. LOOSEN ROOTS OF ROOT-BOUND PLANTS BEFORE PLANTING
3. SOAK PLANTING PIT BEFORE AND AFTER PLANTING
4. LARGE TREES AND SHRUBS MAY NEED TO BE STAKED.

**Illustration courtesy of The Watershed Company/City of Bellevue.**