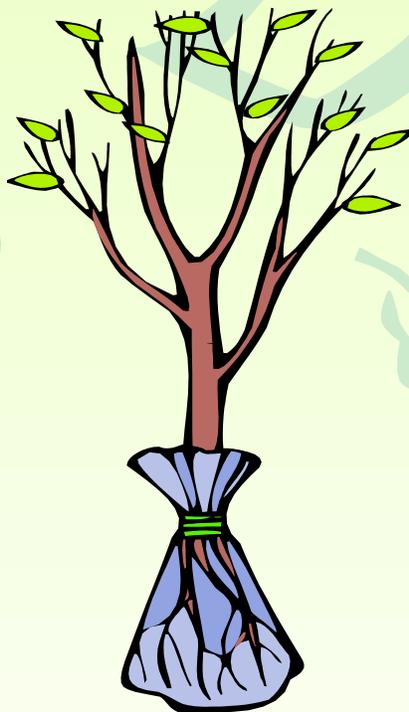


# HOW TO PLANT A TREE



***Village of Cobleskill Tree Committee***

***"Dedicated to enhancing the public greenspace"***

***Planning, Environment & Codes  
378-5 Mineral Springs Road, Cobleskill, NY 12043  
518-234-4661***

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These photographs were taken at the  
2007 Arbor Day celebration in  
Village of Cobleskill Veterans Memorial Centre Park.

The Tree Committee members led the volunteer work party, following  
the direction of Fred Breglia, the Village's Consulting Arborist.

Digging the hole

- You will need a shovel and you might need a tool to pry out stones.
- Put the top layer of dirt/sod to one side for later use.
- Make the hole with straight sides.
- It should have a solid, not fluffy, bottom.
- Dig only as deep as the dirt in the pot holding the tree.



Zhongchun Jiang pries out stones while Fred Breglia, Debbie Yoder, and Bernd Baumann dig.

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Depth of the planting hole is extremely important.  
A tree that is planted too deep will not flourish.  
The tree must be planted in a hole that is **exactly the same depth** as the dirt in the pot.



Fred Breglia using a stick to measure the depth of the dirt in the pot holding a tree.

The dirt must be no higher than the root flare – the *widening* at the base of the tree's trunk.



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Remove the tree from its bucket.

Lay the tree and bucket on the ground and ease the pot off the tree.

Use a sharp tool, if necessary, to cut the bucket to loosen it.

**Do not yank a tree out of the bucket by its trunk.**

**Do not carry a potted tree by its trunk...carry the bucket instead.**



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Ease the tree into the center of your planting hole.

Fill in the hole.

Be careful not to hit the tree's bark with your shovel.

Remember not to pile dirt up higher than the root flare.

Use water to settle dirt around the roots. Usually a five-gallon pail is adequate.



Use a sturdy rake to smooth the dirt around the tree.

The buckets at the bottom of this picture hold mulch for the last step.

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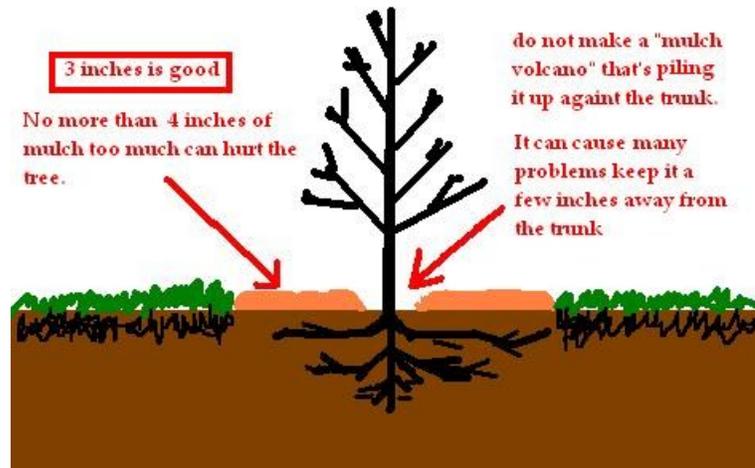


Press the reserved sod grass-side down  
around the edge of the dirt,  
so it makes a “well” around the tree.



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Put on **mulch** – *the right way* –  
to help keep weeds out  
and **moisture** in.



**The finished product: A well-planted tree, ready to thrive!**

