PROPER PLANTING
BEFORE YOU PLANT:

● Do Your Homework - Right Tree Right Place

● What does this mean?
  ■ Even the very best planting practices can’t help a poorly sited tree
  ■ *Climate*… Soil… *SIZE*… Tree Litter… Use / Access… Infrastructure…

● **CALL BLUE STAKE:** 800-662-4111

● How to do homework?
  ■ Many quality sites/books (use scientific name)
SELECT QUALITY STOCK:

- Healthy / Vigorous Tree (small)
- Roots
  - Amount / Condition
  - No girdling (primary) roots
  - Be sure to locate trunk flare
- Inspect for damage / wounding / disease
- Good structure
  - Central Leader + Branch Angle / Spacing
Save these trees - they have good form

- One main trunk
- Main branches on lower half of canopy — high live crown ratio
- Live foliage at top of tree

- One trunk
- Branches spaced apart

- One trunk
- Small diameter branches

- One trunk
- Main branches spaced apart
*STOCK TYPES:

**BARE ROOT**

- *Small / Light / Inexpensive*
- *Best* planted in dormant season (Feb-Apr)
- Roots *MUST* be kept moist
- Shallow+mound, spread roots, water in backfill
- May Require Sweating &/or Staking...
*STOCK TYPES:

CONTAINERIZED

- Most common type
- **MUST** Remove Containers (duh!?)
- Mitigate circling roots - can become girdling…
*STOCK TYPES:*

**B A L L E D & B U R L A P P E D**

- **Field Dug** - lose up to 90% of feeder roots
  - Usually heavy clay soil
- **Always** remove burlap & basket (at least top/sides) **After** it’s placed in the hole
  - remaining burlap/basket can become a barrier to root growth, etc...
PLANTING:

- Planting hole 2x-3x (5x) wider than rootball...
  
  **W-I-D-E i s G-O-O-D**

- Width generally more important than fertility

- Cultivating (Tilling) ≠ Amending (Fertilizing)
PLANTING:

- Most common mistake is planting too deep
  - stress / suffocate roots / trunk rot
- **Must** locate trunk flare / primary scaffold roots
- Plant at or slightly above grade
- Poor Drainage?
  - spp. selection, drains... above grade
  - **NEVER** add gravel! (perched water)
- Lifting tree by stem can do serious damage
*TRANSPLANTING:

- Best time is early spring or fall
- If T-P in growing season is must, harden off...
- Size of ball?
  - Roughly 12” per 1” caliper / diameter
- Proper B&B procedures in book…
EARLY CARE:

- Proper planting no guarantee of success
- Remember: roots are undersized = stress
  - Establishment = 1 year / 1 inch
  - Thus, smaller plants can outgrow larger…
- Roots like:
  - warmth / moisture / air / loose soil
  - **MULCH!**
EARLY CARE:

- Proper irrigation is CRITICAL to success
  - Water as needed, **NOT** by the clock
  - manually check root ball + soil
  - 2” deep dry? = moisten soil to 1’
  - **SLOW** & gentle soaking of *root ball*…
  - Adequate drainage is important…
EARLY CARE:

● No need to fertilize...

● Staking
  ■ Only if canopy big / rootball mass small
  ■ Two stakes + broad flexible material
  ■ Remove after one season
EARLY CARE:

- Pruning
  - Should be kept to a minimum
  - Broken / damaged / problem limbs
  - Ensure good structure
QUESTIONS?
THANK YOU!