



## Site Preparation:

- Determine how much mulch is needed. As a reference, for a 10-15 gal tree 1 bag (3 cubic feet) of mulch is a good baseline. This [calculator](#) can be a useful tool.
- Purchase tree(s) and gather/purchase other materials (don't forget to use your Marylanders Plant Trees [coupon!](#)):
  - Mulch
  - Flags/grass paint to mark planting location
  - Tree Cages (for deer protection of smaller trees)
  - Tree Stakes (for wind protection)
  - Twine
  - Tree Straps
  - Zip ties
  - Hose
  - Buckets
  - Shovel/Spade
  -

## Day of Planting:

- Flag tree locations with flag labels
- Place tree, bag of mulch, stakes, water bags, and other supplies at each flag
- Plant tree(s): [Click Here](#) for some helpful hints
  - be sure there are no pockets of air around the roots
  - Be sure that the root flare is 2-4" above the ground



- Mulch your tree: apply 3" deep, approximately 3' in diameter; do NOT let mulch touch the trunk of the tree!
- Water tree thoroughly (less frequent, deep watering is better than frequent shallow watering)
- If your tree needs protection from deer, mice, voles or other critters, construct a tree cage around it. ([Click Here](#) for directions)

- If your tree is planted in a windy location, it is best practice to stake your tree. ([Click Here](#) for directions)
- [Register your tree](#) to count towards Maryland's Five Million Trees Initiative!!

**Maintenance:**

- Water your tree(s) once a week unless there has been 1/2" or more of rainfall since you last watered. You can also use a gator bag or tree diaper to help keep your tree watered.
- Check periodically to make sure that the branches aren't rubbing against each other or the ties.
- Mulch once/year, taking care to keep mulch away from the root flare and no deeper than 3"
- After one year, remove the stakes
- Once the tree is 6' tall remove the cage