

Sapling Planting - Illustrated

1. **Prepare a large tub of soil amendments** as follows:

- ½ bag Mr. Natural Woodland Soil Mix
- ½ bag Mr. Natural Worm Castings
- ½ bag mushroom compost / humus
- ½ bag top soil



2. **Dig a hole** 3 times the width of the sapling's pot or root ball (i.e., you could place the pot or root ball in the hole 3 times in a triangle) but only 2" deeper than the dirt in the container. Pile the removed dirt next to the hole.



3. **Get half a bucket of soil amendment from the large tub and mix it thoroughly** with the native soil you removed from the hole in a ratio of 2/3 native soil to 1/3 soil amendment. Put 3 inches of this soil mix back into the hole.



- 4 **Remove the tree from the container** carefully and tickle the root hairs so they're facing outwards. If the roots are pot-bound, use a sharp tool to make several half-inch-deep scrapes all around the root mass to free them. Place the tree in the center of the hole, and be sure it's sitting a couple inches above grade.



- 5 **Refill the hole halfway** with your soil mix. Then **sprinkle the contents of the baggie** containing fertilizer, Ironite granules, and water retention crystals all around the roots of the tree.



- 6 **Fill the hole the rest of the way** with your soil mix so that it just covers the root ball. The tree should be sitting 2 inches above grade at this point.



- 7 **Firm the dirt with your foot** to eliminate air pockets. Then tree should be sitting exactly at grade, level with the surrounding ground. Don't create a watering saucer around the tree.



8. **Place the bamboo stake** close to the trunk on the back side of the tree and push it firmly into the soil until you reach original earth and it's stable.
9. **Use velcro tape** to secure the main stem to the bamboo stake **LOOSELY** at the half-way point and about 6 inches from the top. The stake and tape should be removed by the end of the first year.



10. **Apply 2-3 inches of shredded hardwood mulch** from the trunk out to the drip line, pulling the mulch back a couple of inches so it's not actually touching the trunk. This is to maintain stable soil moisture and temperature.



11. Immediately after planting, **water thoroughly** but slowly right at the base of the tree, using 1 gallon of initial watering mix. Two or three hours later, firm the dirt again with your foot to eliminate any remaining air pockets and **water again with plain water**, using 1 gallon of water per gallon of root ball.

