



OAK TREE PLANTING GUIDE

LOOMIS ADOPT AN OAK PROGRAM



OAK TREE SELECTION

TREE COMPARISON CHART



	VALLEY OAK <i>Quercus lobata</i>	INTERIOR LIVE OAK <i>Quercus wislizeni</i>	BLUE OAK <i>Quercus douglasii</i>	ORACLE OAK <i>Quercus x morehus</i>
CANOPY SHAPE	Broad, Round	Round or Oval	Broad, Crown Shaped	Round or Vase
MATURE HEIGHT	60' - 100' Tall	40' - 70' Tall	30' - 50' Tall	30' - 40' Tall
MATURE SPREAD	50' - 80' Wide	40' - 70' Wide	40' - 60' Wide	30' - 40' Wide
GROWTH RATE	Fast (36" per year)	Medium (24"-36" per year)	Slow (12" per year)	Slow (12" - 18" per year)
TREE TYPE	Deciduous	Evergreen	Deciduous	Semi-Evergreen
LIGHT NEEDS	Full Sun	Full Sun	Full Sun	Full Sun
WATER USE	Low	Very Low	Very Low	Low
WHERE TO PLANT	South/West side of Building	North/East side of Building	South/West side of Building	North/East side of Building
BUILDING CLEARANCE	40'+ from Buildings	40'+ from Buildings	30'+ from Buildings	15'+ from Buildings

MINIMUM CLEARANCES

From buildings: varies, see above
 From hardscape: 8 feet
 From pools: 25 feet
 From fences: 6 feet
 From powerlines: 30 feet
 From underground utilities: 10 feet

SELECTING THE RIGHT TREE

- 1) Consider the site conditions and constraints of your property.
- 2) Consider the characteristics and maintenance needs for the tree species.
- 3) Consider your overall goals and expectations for the tree at your property.
- 4) Confirm that the mature tree size will not create a future hazard on your property.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9582/Choosing-the-Right-Tree-PDF>
<https://www.placer.ca.gov/7660/Defensible-Space>
<https://www.pge.com/en/outages-and-safety/safety/vegetation-management.html>

OAK TREE PLANTING

SELECTING A PLANTING LOCATION

Choose a location that provides full sun and enough space to accommodate the future mature spread of the Oak tree species. Ensure there are no conflicting utilities or powerlines that will be impacted by the location of the tree, and abide by proper clearances for fire safety.

PREPARING THE SOIL

Clear the area where the Oak will be planted so that it is free of weeds and grass, which will compete for water and nutrients. If you suspect poor soil consider conducting a soils test to understand soil quality and drainage. Note that in most cases, soils testing is not required for a successful Oak tree planting, because Oaks are highly tolerant of a variety of soil conditions.

DIGGING THE PLANTING HOLE

Mark the center of your desired planting hole with a spade. Carefully measure the root ball and dig your hole slightly less than the height of the root ball of your tree, and 2-3 times the diameter of the root ball. It is okay to make the planting hole wider than needed, but critical that the depth be the right height.

REMOVING THE TREE FROM THE CONTAINER

Moisten the root ball in the container. Carefully remove the tree from the container and pull circling roots outward from the moistened root ball. Prune kinked roots.

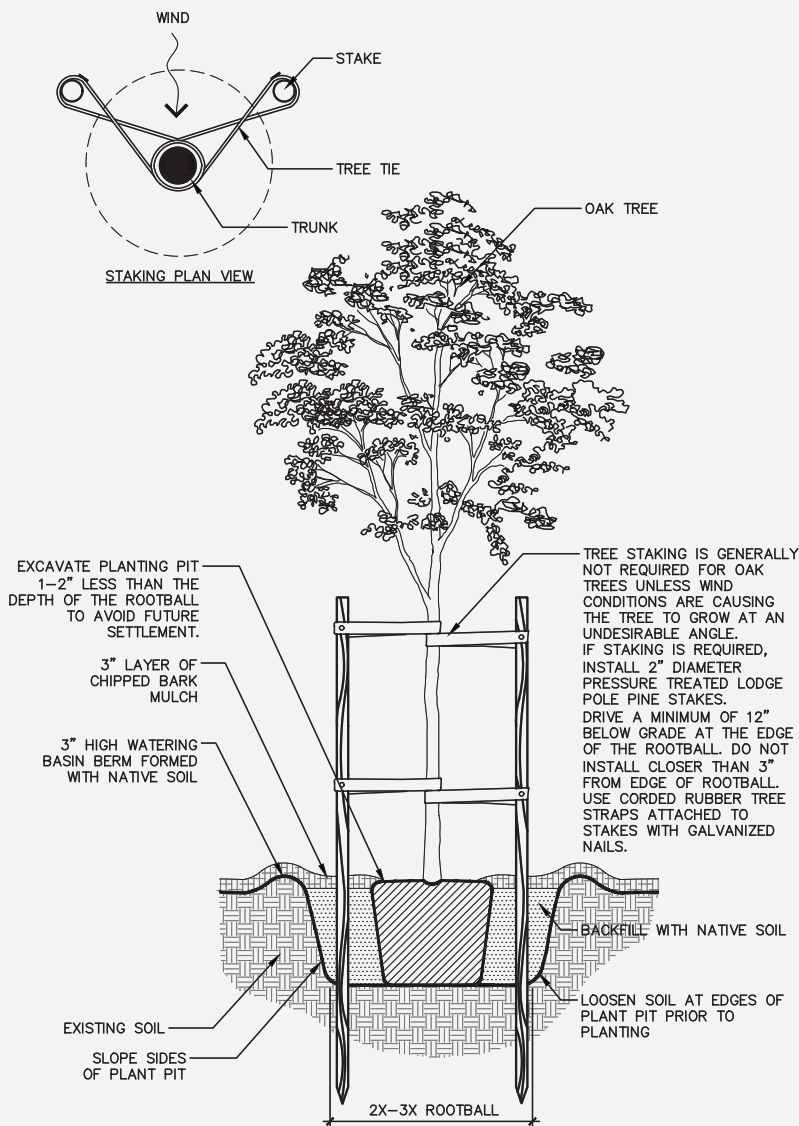
PLANTING THE TREE

Before planting, water the planting hole. Then, carefully place the tree into the center of the hole, (the top of the rootball should be slightly higher than the surrounding soil). Straighten the tree to vertical and backfill the hole with the native soil you dug out in the last step. It is usually not necessary to add any amendments or fertilizer. Immediately water deeply to "water in" the soil around your new tree, and tamp lightly to compact.

MULCHING

Provide a 3" layer of mulch within the watering basin. But hold the mulch off the trunk 4" to prevent crown rot. Mulching is recommended to maintain soil moisture and prevent weeds.

- ✓ **FULL SUN**
- ✓ **WELL DRAINED SOIL, 2-3 INCHES PER HOUR**
- ✓ **ENOUGH SPACE FOR MATURE TREE SIZE**
- ✓ **CLEAR AREA FREE OF WEEDS AND GRASS**
- ✗ **AVOID IRRIGATED PLANTING BEDS**
- ✗ **AVOID CONFLICTS WITH UTILITIES**
- ✗ **DO NOT ENCROACH ON DEFENSIBLE SPACE**
- ✗ **DO NOT USE FERTILIZER**



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9589/Young-Tree-Care-Brochure-PDF>

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgslo/files/371755.pdf>

<https://sunland-analytical.com/>

ESTABLISHMENT & MAINTENANCE

IRRIGATION FOR YOUNG OAK TREES

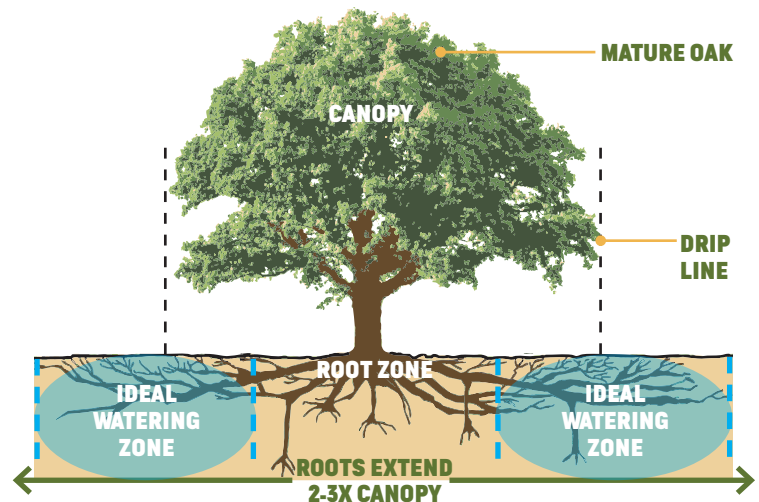
To irrigate the newly planted tree, drench the entire planting hole and root ball. Repeat a second time, once water has drained into the soil. Drench the root ball and watering basin every other day for the first 2 weeks after planting.

After the first two weeks, avoid irrigating near the base of the tree. Irrigate with drip tubing, situated in a ring and located halfway between trunk and the edge of the tree canopy (dripline), adjusting the drip ring outwards as the tree grows. Reduce watering to twice a week for the remainder of the first growing season (April through October) and check the soil moisture with a soil moisture probe to make sure this prescription for water is not over or under watering the root ball. Adjust as necessary based on weather conditions. When precipitation occurs, watering may be skipped. The new tree will need to be watered once to twice a week through the summer months for the second and third years until the Oak tree is established.



ONGOING IRRIGATION

Established urban oak trees need little to no irrigation. However, during periods of drought with dry winters, supplemental deep watering in winter through early spring can help the tree continue to thrive. If summer irrigation is absolutely necessary, limit irrigation to once a month maximum, focused on the outer two thirds of the tree root zone. Summer irrigation of an oak tree should occur only under drought or water stressed conditions and should be carefully planned and monitored.



ONGOING MAINTENANCE

Allow the Oaks leaves to remain on the ground as mulch. Microorganisms in the layer where the oak leaves meet the soil protect the oak from diseases.

Remove non-native plants, including weeds, from under the native oaks. Do not disturb the soil when weeding, instead cut the weeds off at ground level.

Don't use rocks or gravel mulch directly around the base of oak trees, as the moisture they retain can kill the tree through drowning or fungus.

Avoid changes in soil moisture, drainage or soil compaction around the oak tree root zone.

OAK TREE PRUNING

Mature oaks generally need no pruning, except to control the growth in urban environments. If pruning is necessary, never prune more than 10% green out of your oak in one season. Pruning is best done in early fall, and the Oak should never be topped. These abnormal cuts create weak branches, and the oak can never get back to its natural shape. If possible, all pruning should be prescribed and carried out by a tree care professional.

OAK TREE PRUNING GRANT PROGRAM

Your Oak tree is eligible to participate in the Oak Tree Pruning Grant Program which provides a 50/50 matching grant up to \$1,500.00 for tree pruning services. Refer to the link below for more information.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<https://oaks.cnr.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Living-Among-the-Oaks.pdf>
https://ceventura.ucanr.edu/newsletters/Vol_18_No3_November_200429830.pdf
https://www.laspilitas.com/groups/oaks/Planting_under_oak_tree.html