

Tree Planting Specifications City of Norwalk

1. If not readily apparent, locate the **root flare** by removing twine, burlap and excess soil. It is necessary to distinguish between the root flare and the graft union for proper planting. Often, the graft union is mistaken for the actual root flare due to the similar curvature.

2. Dig tree hole at least two times wider than the tree ball, with sides sloped to an unexcavated or firm base. **Dig hole to a depth so the located root flare, at the first lateral root, will be at finished grade.**

3. Remove all twine from the root ball. If present, remove and discard at least the top one half of the wire basket. Burlap shall be removed from the top to a point halfway down the root ball and discarded.

4. Prune off any secondary/adventitious, girdling, and potential girdling roots.

5. Backfill planting hole with existing unamended soil and water thoroughly.

6. Mulch the entire planting surface no less than 2” deep and no more than 3” deep, **leaving 3” adjacent to the tree trunk free of mulch.**

Distinguishing Between the Graft Union and the Root Flare

The root flare has curvature on several sides around the base. The graft union only curves out in one place.



Planted too deep – “telephone pole”



Planted at level of graft union



Root flare below grade



Correctly planted with root flare at grade level