You've taken the first step toward greening your community! It's up to you to promote your trees long-term health, resiliency and survivability.

**Call before you dig:**
- DIG RITE: 1-800-344-7483 (Missouri)
- 811 (Kansas)

**Get Permission**
Consult the your municipality’s forestry/public works department or the property owner before planting.

**Transporting**
- Always cover trees exposed to the elements to prevent windburn and leaf loss.
- Always carry trees by the pot to prevent damage to the roots.
- Do not leave trees covered in a vehicle for extended periods of time.
- Keep roots moist until planting.

**Incorrect**
- Incorrectly carrying or transporting the tree.

**Correct**
- Properly transporting the tree to prevent damage.

**Get to Know Your Tree**
Read the tree tag to learn about the species and whether the tree can be planted under or near utility lines.

**Plot Your Trees**
Help Missouri plant (and plot!) one million trees! Head over to www.plantmotrees.org to add your trees and track their growth.

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**Planting Your Tree**

1. **Dig a Hole**
   - The hole should be at least twice as wide and the same depth as the root ball.
   - Tip: Lay your shovel across the hole. The shovel should lay flat across the root ball and ground.

2. **Cut the Roots**
   - Cut any roots that are circling the root ball and loosen up the soil.
   - If left alone, roots will continue to grow in a circle and eventually kill the tree.

3. **Fill the Hole Up!**
   - Use the same soil you dug out of the hole to fill the hole back up.
   - Do not stomp or tamp the soil too tight.

4. **Water the Tree**
   - Trees MUST be watered after planting.
   - A long soaking with a hose is best.
   - Give your tree 5 gallons of water each week for its first 3 years if there is limited rainfall.

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**Keeping your Tree Healthy**

5. **Mulch**
   - Mulching reduces weeds and grass, retains moisture, and protects from lawnmowers.
   - Mulch a ring about the size of the hole, no more than 3” deep.
   - Do not pile mulch against the trunk as this will encourage fungal growth.
   - The mulch ring should look like a “donut” with the trunk growing in the middle.

6. **Maintenance**
   - Prune only dead/broken branches for the first year after the tree was planted.
   - Additional pruning may stress the tree.
   - For future pruning, consult a professional.
   - Stake trees only when necessary such as in very windy areas.
   - Remove all staking after one year.
   - Visit your tree regularly to water, weed, mulch, prune, and check for problems.
**Benefits of Trees**

- In the U.S., trees prevent **$7 Billion** in health costs annually!
- Trees can cut air conditioning costs by up to 30%!
- One acre of forest absorbs **6 Tons** of carbon dioxide and puts out **4 Tons** of oxygen.
- Trees cool city streets by up to 10 degrees.
- Nationally, there are **60 Million** street trees with an average value of **$525** per tree.
- Trees add an average of 10% to a property's value.
- A mature tree can capture **1,385 Gallons** of stormwater each year and so much more!

**Nationally, there are 60 Million street trees with an average value of $525 per tree.**

Source: Arbor Day Foundation

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**About Forest ReLeaf**

Forest ReLeaf of Missouri operates CommuniTree Gardens, the only nonprofit community-assisted nursery in the region. Since our inception in 1993, over 200,000 trees have been planted.

Projects have:
- Increased tree canopy in low-income areas.
- Assisted with reforestation after natural disasters or in response to invasive pests.
- Promoted peace and healing in our communities.

**Programs:**
- **Project CommuniTree** makes native species trees available for FREE for planting on public or nonprofit owned land. Apply at moreleaf.org/plant
- **Priority ReLeaf** provides larger trees, at no cost, to underserved and disaster-affected areas.
- **ReLeaf Fundraising** offers trees for private land for a suggested donation.

**Volunteer!**
None of this would be possible without our dedicated volunteers at CommuniTree Gardens, and across the region. Join us at moreleaf.org/volunteer

**Major Support Provided By:**

and people like you! Visit moreleaf.org/give to help sustain Forest ReLeaf