GUIDELINES

for Siting, Planting, and Caring for Coast Redwoods over a Multi-Centuries Lifespan.

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These Coast Redwoods live to be 1000 or even 2000 years old ---- one-day-at-a-time. In their sapling days they would be growing in the shade and wind protection of a redwood forest or at least a grove, their small roots stretching into the adjacent soil. Their roots will soon be finding their own water, but in their first year or two they need to be kept moist but not soggy.

Pre-planting site selection: Before deciding to plant a Coast Redwood you should check the site for a few requirements to make sure the tree can grow to a mature size.

1) Access to water

There is a reason the word "Coast" is in the name of this tree. They love to grow near water – either a body of water, a flowing stream or a water table that is not too deep. ***Access to water is the most important criteria in finding a good site for a redwood tree.*** Ensure that the roots stay moist to become established until they can grow and find their own water. Mother nature should not be relied upon to keep the tree alive for the first few years after planting.

2) Sufficient space

Coast Redwoods can reach impressive heights and widths and will need ample room to grow without interference from structures, overhead & underground utilities, and other infrastructure that could be damaged by a large tree. A minimum distance of 30' should be maintained when planting near roads, sidewalks, and foundations to reduce the chance of damage from these trees' large root systems. Redwoods can grow 2 feet or more a year. They can be 100 to 150 feet in height and 4 feet in diameter in fifty years.

3) Elevation

Coast Redwoods grow best below 3000' and do not tolerate temperatures below freezing. Hard frosts can kill branch tips or even the entire tree.

4) Soil

While Coast Redwoods prefer rich, well-drained soil with lots of available water, they have been found to grow well in almost all types of soil. The biggest consideration to think about for a prospective site is soil compaction/construction fill. A site with heavily compacted soil and/or construction fill should not be used as that site will have limited organic material and a much lower water-holding compacity. Soil-compacted or construction-fill sites should not be used unless significant preparation is made to improve soil conditions.

5) Wind Tolerance

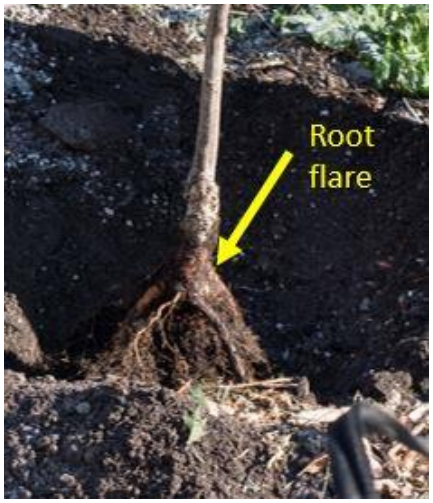
Coast Redwoods need shelter from the prevailing wind direction, as wind desiccation can be a problem.

Email: movingthegiants@accorde.org

How to Plant a Tree*

Below are 10 steps you can follow to make sure your tree gets the right start in life.

1. **Dig a shallow, wide planting hole.** Dig the hole only as deep as the root flare, (first major root on the stem) about 2-3 times as wide at root ball or container, and with a flat bottom. The sides of the hole should be slopped toward the center. The bottom of the hole should not have loose soil as it will settle over time and the tree may sink or list to one side. If the hole is dug too deep and needs to be filled in a little, make sure to pack the soil back into the bottom.



2. **Remove the tree from the pot.** Gently roll the pot from side to side on the ground then tip it on its side. Be sure to carry/move the tree by handling the pot, not the tree's trunk.

3. **Locate the root flare.** Remove any excess soil piled on top of the root flare. The root flare is the area where the first major roots extend out from the trunk (see photo). Once planted, the root flare should sit just above the top of the planned finished grade. This includes any mulch that may be added.

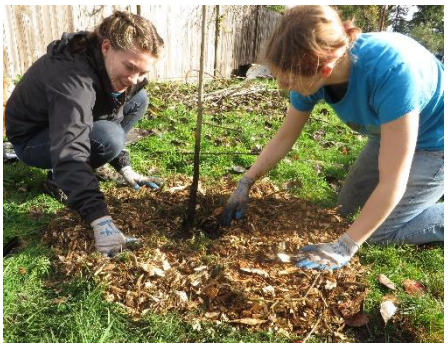
4. **Examine the roots.** Roots that are circling the root ball should be redirected to grow outward in the soil, like a star. If this is not possible, it is better to cut a root than to allow it to continue growing in a circular fashion. Circling roots will stunt the growth of the tree and can eventually lead to the tree's death.

5. **Place your tree into the hole and orient.** Think about where you want the main branches to point. Be sure the root flare is aboveground. A buried root flare will lead to rotting over time, compromising the health and safety of your tree.

6. **Fill in the hole.** Backfill the hole with the same soil that came out of the hole. Backfill in layers and use your feet to pack the soil in-between each layer. Check alignment as you go. Do not backfill higher than the top of the root flare. Use any remaining soil to create a water ring around the perimeter of the hole. Avoid amendments such as fertilizers and compost, which will not help your tree grow strong.

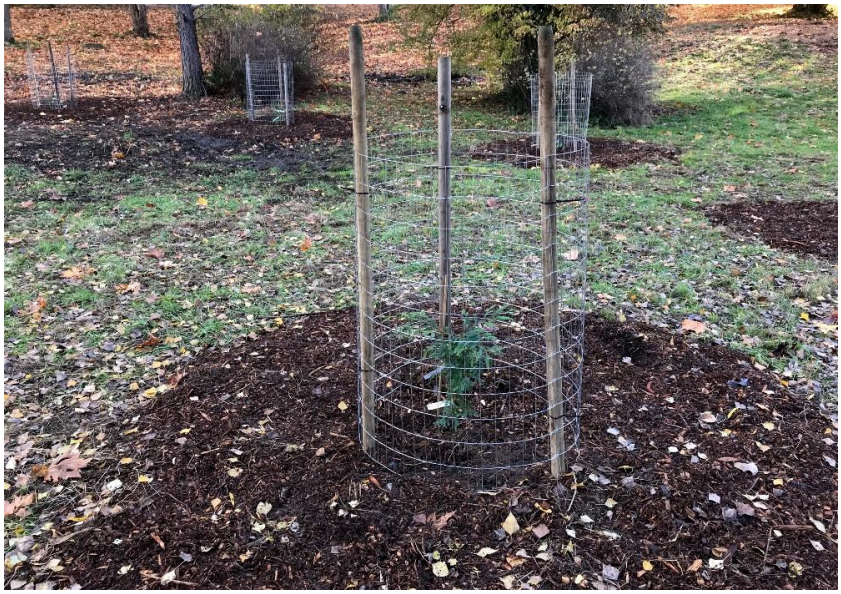
7. **Water your tree in.** Give your new tree a nice drink of water to help remove excess air pockets, pack soil, and reduce stress from transplanting. Longer, slow flow waterings are best to make sure the water is absorbed by the soil and does not runoff before getting to the tree.

8. **Mulch.** Spread bark mulch or arborist wood chips 2-3" thick and as wide as the planting hole (larger if possible) around the base of your tree, keeping it about a hands-width away from the stem of the tree.



9. **Staking.** Staking a newly planted tree should only be done if the tree cannot support itself after transplanting. If there is a need to stake, place 2-3 stakes at the edge of the planting hole and drive them vertically into the ground until firmly set. Use a proper tree tie such as chain-lock tree tie to secure the stake to the tree. Place the tree tie horizontally and as low as possible, but high enough to support the tree. Tree ties should be removed within 1-2 years. A tree without stakes and tree ties will develop the roots to hold itself up faster than a tree that is staked.

10. **Tree Protection:** Sequoia and Redwood saplings will need protection from animals and people until they are 6' tall or larger. Use of metal fencing held in place by 3-4 stakes is recommended (see picture). A diameter of 6-10 feet is recommended so the tree can grow without interference from the fencing. Extending mulch so it is outside the tree protection will reduce vegetation competition and make maintenance with mowers and string trimmers much easier.



* Adapted from Trees for Seattle web page: http://www.seattle.gov/trees/planting.htm