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1. **Before digging**, call your local utilities to identify the location of any underground utilities.
 2. Consult your local garden center or Extension office for advice regarding soil amendments and planting conditions specific to your area.
 3. Dig a hole at least twice as wide and 1½ times the depth of the container.
 4. Fill the hole half-full of water and allow to drain before planting the tree.
 5. Backfill the hole with a mix of compost and the original soil from the hole, so that the root ball is at ground level when planted.
 6. Gently remove the tree from the plastic container. Scratch surface roots loose from the root ball. Make vertical cuts in any large roots that encircle the root ball, and if heavily rooted, vertically score the root ball with knife to ½" depth.
 7. Place the root ball in the hole so that the top of the root ball is at ground level.
 8. Fill the hole around the tree with a mix of compost and the original soil from the hole. Continually tamp to collapse all air pockets as you add this mix to the hole.
 9. Form a temporary water basin the width of the original hole around the base of the tree.
 10. Stake or support the tree with materials available at your local garden center until the roots are well established.
 11. Water thoroughly after planting. Thereafter, water to keep the soil moist until the tree is well established.
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