

HOW TO

PLANT A DECIDUOUS TREE



PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY®



Getting a deciduous tree to grow tall with a single, straight trunk can be a tricky task, especially if deer and rabbits are prevalent in your area. It is important to protect the bud at the tip of the main stem - the terminal bud. This bud creates the vertical growth that will harden off to form a single stem. If the terminal bud is nibbled at or severed, your tree could grow into a multi-stemmed tree. Please follow this guide when planting your tree:

- **Identify the root flare, or root collar** - the widest part of the stem just above the top-most roots. The base of the root flare needs to be planted at or slightly above the soil surface to allow for proper growth of the tree.

- **Dig the hole** - larger and deeper than what seems necessary, so the roots have plenty of space to grow. Carefully fill soil between the roots, gently compacting the soil while adjusting the stem to keep the root flare just above the surface level.

- **Mulch** - although not necessary, you can add mulch at this point. Do not mound the mulch up against the base of the tree; this covers the root flare and prevents air circulation. Leave 3-6" of space between the tree stem and the mulch.

- **Protect** - use a tree tube* or cage until the tree reaches a height of 5-6ft. The terminal bud should be safe from deer browse at this point. If you keep the tree caged beyond 6ft of growth, the trunk of your tree will be protected from deer rubbing and damaging the bark.

**Tubes are inexpensive and come in many heights. Attach tree tubes to a stake for stability. Push the tube slightly into the soil to guard against small mammal damage. Check tree tubes regularly and clear away any buildup or blockages.*

