



How to Plant and Care for Your RPM Tree

With proper care, your tree will give you benefits for many years.

Trees are beautiful, but they can also,

- provide food and shelter for watchable wildlife.
- reduce your heating and cooling costs.
- help clean the air.
- add beauty and value to your home.

Tree planting can be a significant investment in money, resources and time. Proper selection is important and can make a difference in whether or not you achieve your planting goals. The right tree will provide you with years of enjoyment as well as significantly increase the value of your property.



Forrest Keeling Nursery and RPM: We work with nature to produce superior plants.

More than two decades of field research and countless years of experience culminated in **Forrest Keeling's RPM Root Production Method®—a technique so unique, it's patented!** We use superior seed stock, air-root pruning, special nutrition and soil and proper timing to produce the best plant stock on the market today.

RPM trees give you...

- superior plant survivability and accelerated growth rate.
- increased success and profitability.
- extended planting season

RPM produces...

- vastly improved root system
- better utilization of water and nutrients—through the life of the plant.

Your results are...

- improved transplantability.
- accelerated growth pattern and survivability.
- fewer replacements
- substantial labor savings.

The bottom line? RPM plants make good economic sense! With a survival rate of over 95%, lifetime accelerated growth rate, and earlier maturation you can't afford to plant anything else.

When to plant

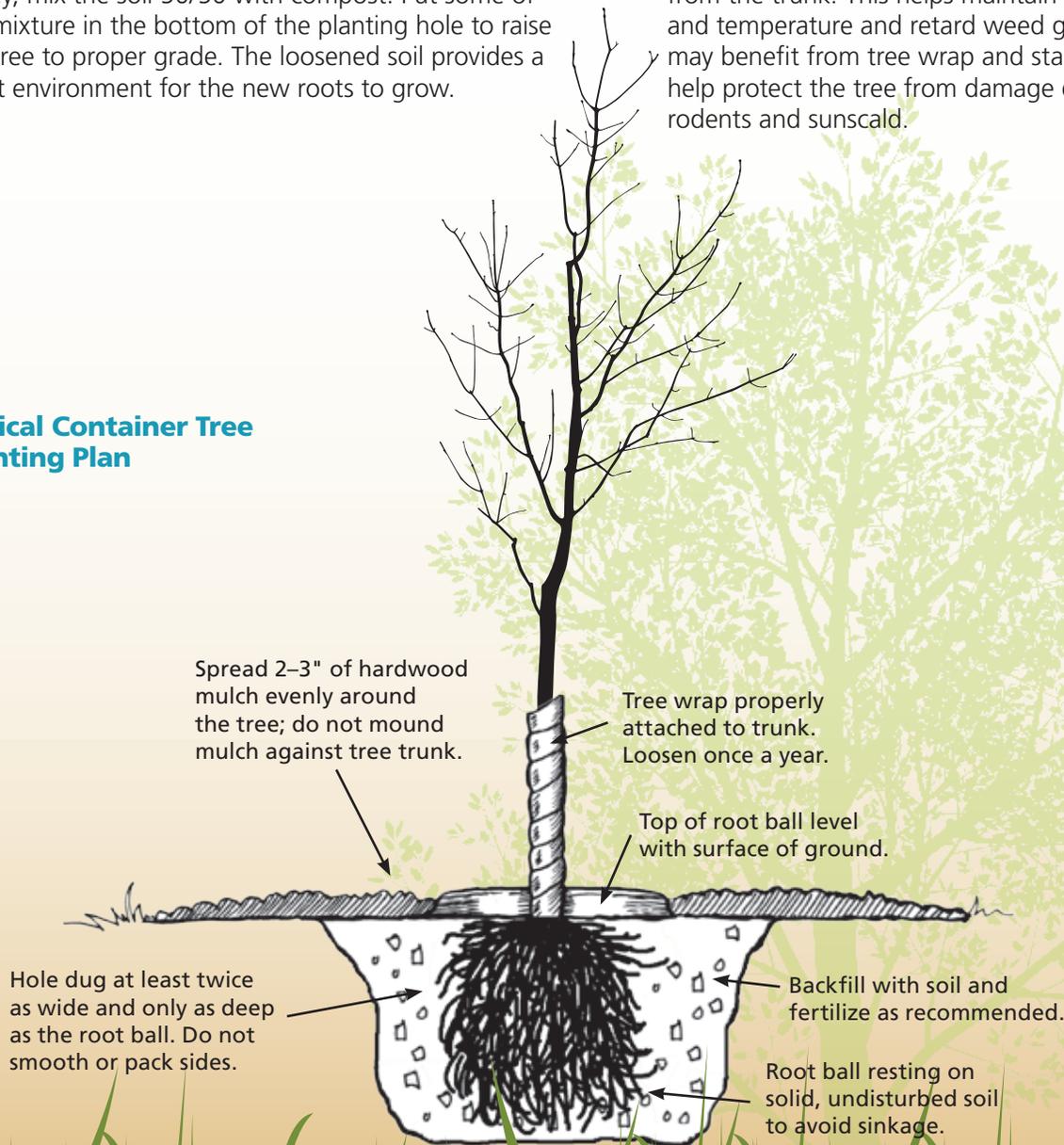
Trees can be planted just about any time that the soil can be worked but **fall planting, between October 20 and December 10, is best.** Fall's cooler air temperatures with still-warm soil and plentiful rain create optimum conditions for developing strong root systems. This allows your newly planted trees and shrubs to take off in the spring.

Spring planting, between March 1 and April 30, is next best. By selecting Forrest Keeling's RPM trees, you've already taken the first step to guaranteed success for your new tree.

Your guide for planting:

1. **Give 'em room!** Dig your planting hole twice as wide and slightly shallower than the root ball of your tree. Rough up the sides and bottom of the planting hole. The extra space on the sides provides room for new roots to grow and the uneven sides make it easier for root tips to penetrate soil. The firm base prevents settling.
2. **Ready your tree**—Remove the container. Lay the tree on its side and tap the sides and end until the root ball is loose in the container. Gently separate roots and guide them outward. Cut very long roots or ones that will not straighten.
3. **Ready the soil**—If your soil is compacted or extremely clayey, mix the soil 50/50 with compost. Put some of the mixture in the bottom of the planting hole to raise the tree to proper grade. The loosened soil provides a great environment for the new roots to grow.
4. **Stand up straight**—Position the tree in the planting hole and make sure it is standing upright. Tilt the root ball and backfill under it to correct the tree's orientation as needed. Turn the preferred side to benefit the primary view.
5. **Get a good start**—Mix root stimulator with water per manufacturer's recommendations and add to the planting hole. A root stimulator helps accelerate the development of new feeder roots. Backfill with loosened soil occasionally adding water mixed with root stimulator to displace air pockets.
6. **The grand finale**—Once planted, add three to four inches of hardwood mulch around the tree but away from the trunk. This helps maintain proper soil moisture and temperature and retard weed growth. Larger trees may benefit from tree wrap and staking. Tree wrap can help protect the tree from damage due to deer, rabbits, rodents and sunscald.

Typical Container Tree Planting Plan



Tree planting is a significant investment in money, resources and time but proper selection and planting techniques can help insure success. For more information about our RPM trees and how to plant and care for them, see our website, www.forrestkeeling.com, or visit our garden center staff at Elsberry, Missouri.