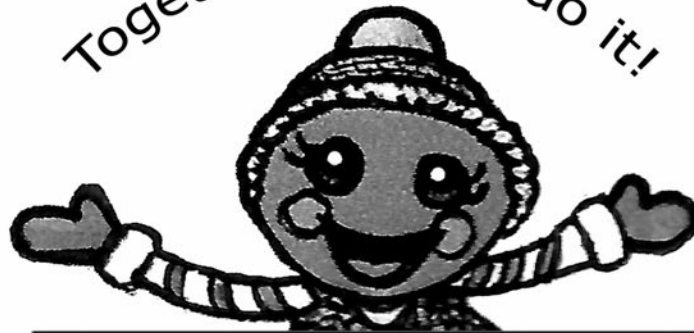


Together we can do it!



The Greenie
School Orchard
Project

**PRACTICAL
TREE PLANTING
GUIDE**

for
Teachers
and
Students

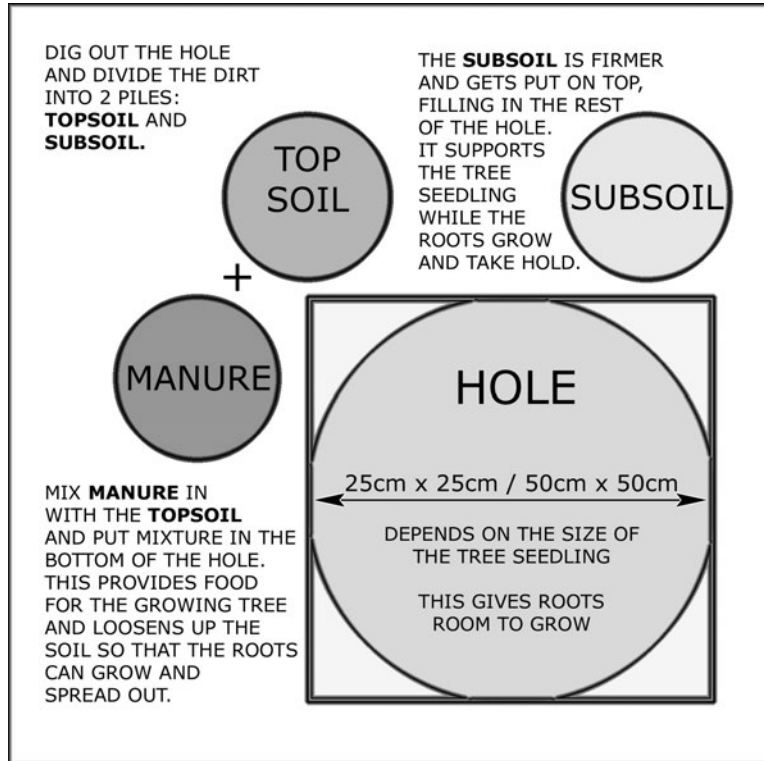
PLANTING A TREE SEEDLING

DIGGING THE HOLE/SOIL PREPARATION

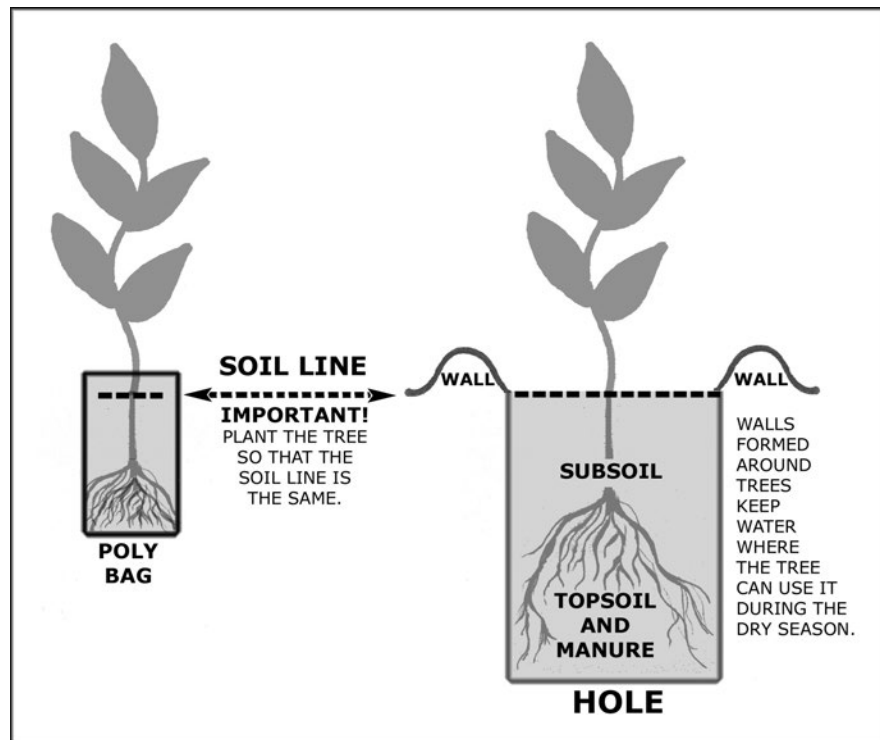
When planting your tree seedling, the size of the seedling determines the size of the hole. 25cm by 25cm for smaller seedlings and 50cm by 50cm for larger seedlings. This gives your new tree room to spread its roots and grow.

When digging the hole, keep 2 separate piles. One of the topsoil and one of the subsoil. Mix manure into the topsoil and put this mixture into the bottom of the planting hole first. Your tree seedling will come out of its poly bag and sit on top of this.

*It is important that you observe the soil line of the seedling while it's still in the poly bag. The tree must be planted so that the level of the soil is the same as when the tree was growing in the poly bag.



Fill in the hole around the tree with the subsoil up to the soil line. This firmer soil will support the growing tree as it takes root. "Heel in" the tree with your feet, making sure the soil is packed firmly around your newly planted seedling. Water the tree to settle it into the ground during the dry season. Walls formed around tree will help the water stay where the tree can utilise it.



WATERING

Water is a critical element in establishing your seedling so that it can grow into a healthy tree. During the dry season (November to June) a regular watering schedule should be established. This is important for the health of your new trees. Monitor and water each tree at least every 2 or 3 days.

Note: Once trees are mature and established, watering is important for fruit crop production (except for mangoes) but not as critical for survival as in the tree's early stages of development.

Make a watering schedule and stick to it!

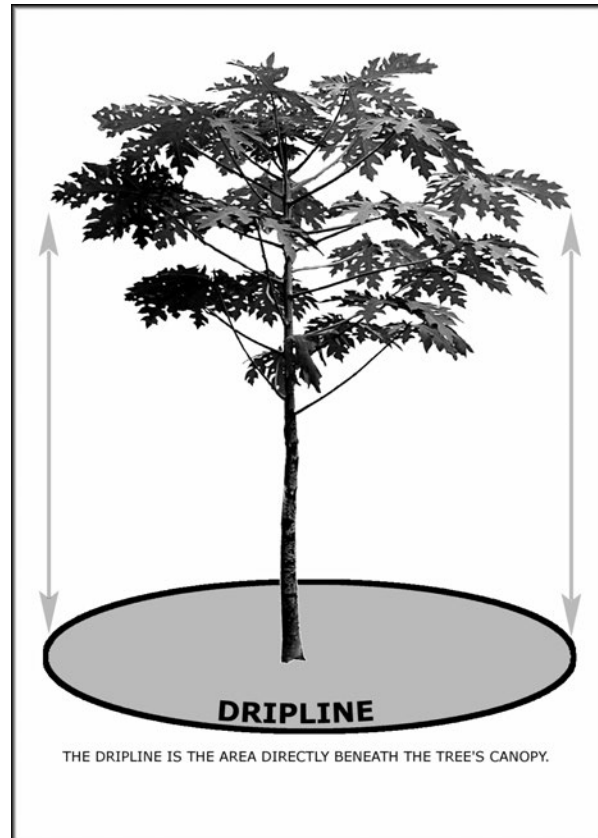
FERTILIZING

Fertilizing established trees should be done at the discretion of the garden master.

Compost can be lightly raked into the soil around the tree (top dressing) or a granular NPK (15-15-15) chemical fertilizer can be sprinkled into a trench dug around the dripline or canopy line. This can be done yearly at the beginning of the rainy season.

MULCHING

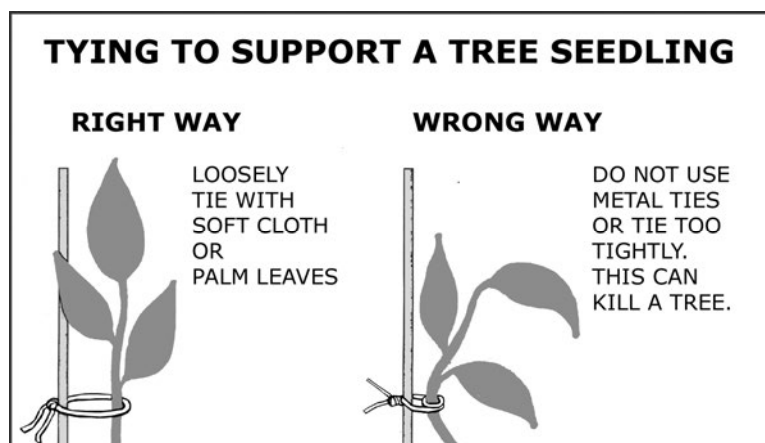
Mulching can be done around young trees to conserve soil moisture but will invite termites if a regular watering schedule is not followed.



SUPPORTING FLEXIBLE SEEDLINGS

Some seedling trees are quite strong and do not need support.

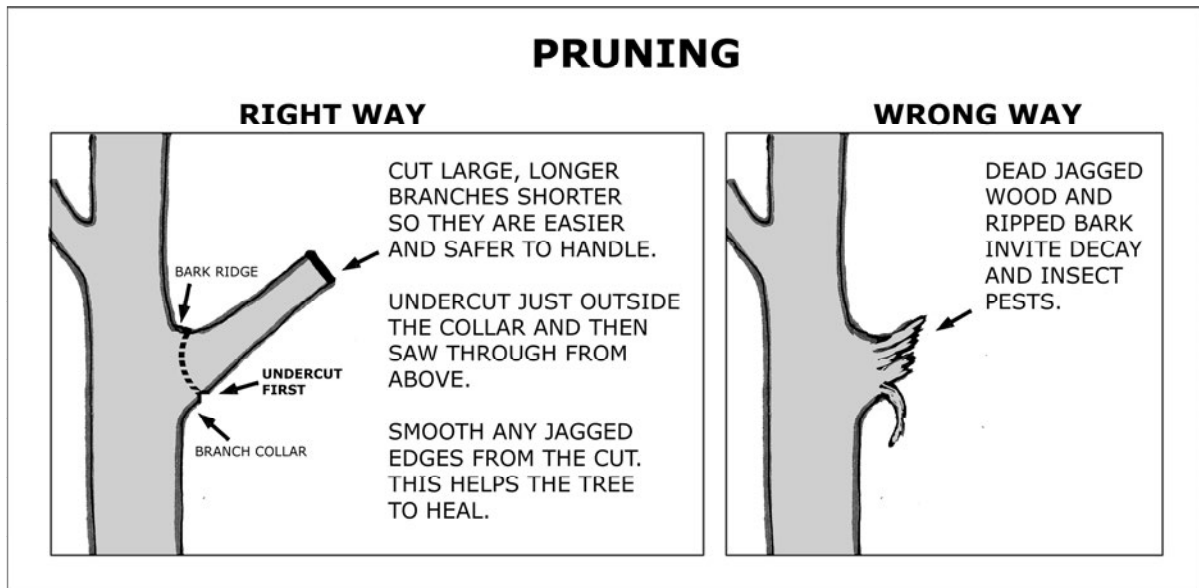
Others require support as they grow so that they develop a strong, straight trunk. These can be tied to a stick until strong enough to stand on their own.



PRUNING

Pruning can be done to shape your trees when they are 2-3 years old. It is important to prune any dead branches from your trees as well as cut off any new shoots that sprout on the trunk.

Tools for pruning should be kept sharp and clean and safely stored when not in use.



PESTS

Regular scouting and close inspection help you monitor your trees. Most insects can be removed by hand picking. Wash hands afterwards.

Note: The Department of Agriculture Pest Management Services can advise you if you have persistent insect pest problems.

HARVEST - Patience is rewarded.

Harvest only ripe fruit carefully with a harvesting hook or careful climbing. Collect fruits in a small bag gently to prevent bruising and rot.

Do not harvest unripe fruit. It can make you sick. Some unripe fruits can be poisonous.

Wash your fruit before eating.
Enjoy!

“Take care of the trees and the trees will take care of you!”

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