

PLANTING A TREE

The best time to plant trees is near the beginning of the rainy season:

Summer rainfall areas
August to December

Winter rainfall areas
March to July

STEP 1 PREPARE THE HOLE

Dig a hole 2 x the bag size
(Big enough to fit the tree and a 2L bottle)

Remove all the soil from the hole

Loosen the soil on sides and base

STEP 2 MIX AMENDMENTS INTO SOIL

Add compost and any other additives to the soil that was removed

Mix thoroughly

Examples of additives: bonemeal, manure

STEP 3 PREPARE BASE SOIL

Refill half the hole with this mixture so that the base of the tree stem is slightly above ground level.

STEP 4 POSITION WATER BOTTLE

Make small holes on the underside of the bottle

Keep the cap on but don't tighten completely

Position your 2L bottle in the hole so that the cap is also above ground level.

STEP 5 REMOVE BAG FROM TREE

Place bagged tree in bucket of water for 5 mins

Gently massage the rootball to loosen it from the bag. Pull on the bottom of the bag so that it slides off the rootball (don't tear the bag). Always be mindful not to damage the roots.

STEP 6 PLACE THE TREE IN THE HOLE

Position the tree in the centre of the hole
Base of stem above ground level (Approx 1 hand width)

STEP 7 POSITION THE STAKE, IF THERE IS NOT ALREADY A STAKE WITH THE TREE

Place the stake so that it stands upright alongside the rootball. Always be mindful not to damage the roots.

STEP 8 FILL THE HOLE WITH REMAINING SOIL

Make sure to mound the soil up the base of the stem

Step on or "dance" on the soil to compact it for initial stability

Create a berm around the base approximately 50cm from the stem to capture and hold water

Always keep a thick layer of mulch around the tree to protect the roots from cold, prevent weed growth and help the soil retain moisture.

Feed trees organic tea once a month.

Support the tree using soft fabric (socks or stockings) to tie the tree to the stake. Do not use string or wire which can damage the bark.

STEP 9 MULCH

Add mulch over the soil to protect from sun and drying out

At least 20cm thick and leave a small space between the stem and the mulch

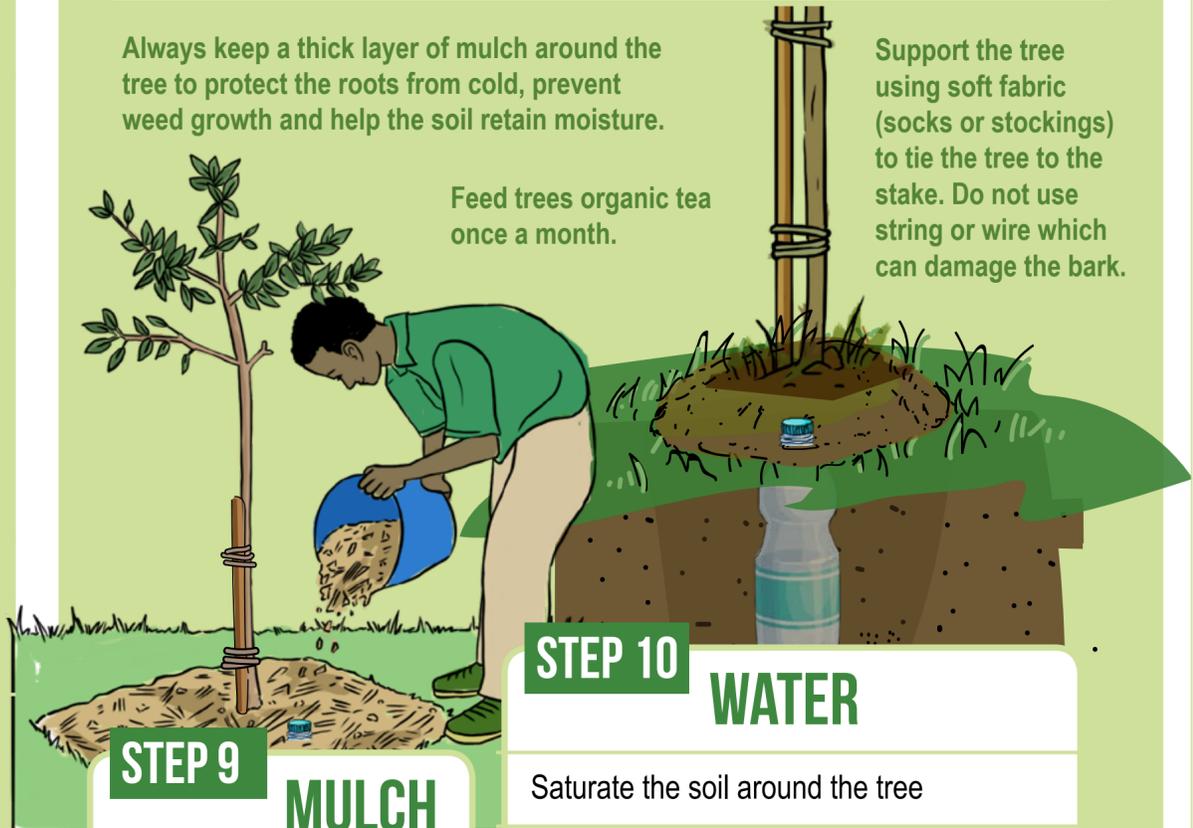
STEP 10 WATER

Saturate the soil around the tree

Fill 2L bottle and loosely replace the cap

STEP 11 TREE CARE

Check 2L bottle every few days with a stick - if the stick is dry, refill the bottle



African Climate Reality Project

www.climatereality.co.za
www.trees.org.za

