

# Community Roots

Caring about our communities goes beyond providing safe, reliable electric service.

The Community Roots tree giveaway program is one way PPL Electric Utilities is giving back to the places it serves and the people who live there. It's meant to beautify the places where we live, work and play.

Our goal here is big – we want to give away up to 50,000 trees annually.

Trees beautify our neighborhoods and help reduce our carbon footprint.

Learn more about Community Roots at [www.pplcommunityroots.com](http://www.pplcommunityroots.com).



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.



PPL Electric Utilities

**YOU DEPEND ON US. WE DELIVER.**

PPL Electric Utilities

1-800-342-5775 (1-800-DIAL-PPL)

[www.pplcommunityroots.com](http://www.pplcommunityroots.com)



## Bare-Root Seedling Tree Planting Guide

## PLANNING

1. Tree roots must be kept moist until planting. Store in a cool location and add water to moisten the roots as needed until planting.
2. Dormant season planting is recommended. This is the season in late fall to early spring when deciduous trees have lost their leaves and both deciduous and evergreen trees are not actively growing.
3. Plan the locations and spacing of where you will plant your trees.

**Locations:** Moderate conditions are best, where soils are neither too wet nor rocky. Certain species are more tolerant to wetter conditions. Check the Species Guides for the species of trees you will be planting for additional information. **Do not plant trees under power lines or other overhead utility lines or over underground lines.**

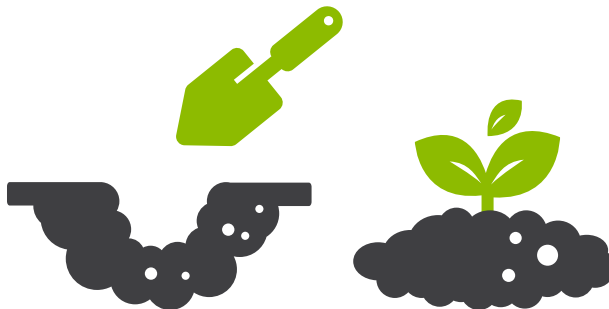
**Spacing:** Recommended spacing for seedlings is 10 feet for deciduous species and 6 feet for evergreen species. Keep a distance of 15-20 feet from houses or other structures. In some situations, like at parks or schools, arranging the trees at an even spacing and in straight lines may be preferred. In other situations, a slightly uneven spacing, a random planting pattern, and a mixture of species gives a more natural appearance. Check the Species Guides for the species of trees you will be planting for additional information.

4. Fertilizers, potting soil, and chemicals will not be needed.
5. Mulch (shredded bark or wood chips) is optional, and is recommended.

Additional Helpful  
Information Can Be Found At:

[www.arborday.org/trees](http://www.arborday.org/trees)  
[www.pplelectric.com/planting](http://www.pplelectric.com/planting)

## Bare-Root Seedling Tree Planting Guide



## PLANTING

1. Unpack your trees carefully, untangle the roots without allowing them to dry out, and soak in water for several hours while preparing for planting.
2. Dig wide and tapered planting holes at least twice as wide as the root mass of your trees. The holes should be saucer-shaped. This will encourage the roots to grow outward through loosened soils. Shovels, spades, or post-hole diggers are good tools that can be used.
3. Depth of the planting holes should be the same as the length of the root mass.
4. Hold the tree in the center of the planting hole and begin adding soil, tamping in around the lower roots by hand. Work your way up, extending the upper roots horizontally, and filling the hole with soil. Tamp in around the roots so that the soil is firmly compacted, but not tight. Air pockets should not be left in the soil, but water will need to be able to soak in.

*Note: Trees should be planted so that the final height is the same as how the trees were grown at the nursery. The highest roots should be covered by soil, but the crown (where the trunk flares out above the roots) should be exposed and not buried. It is most important to not plant the trees too deep.*



5. Create a ring of soil forming a watering basin around the tree and water as soon as possible, saturating the soils.
6. Do not replace grass around the planting holes. Add a 2-inch thick layer of mulch (shredded bark or woodchips) spread around, but not touching, the tree trunks. The mulch will help retain moisture in the soil and reduce weeds that would hinder the trees.
7. During the first growing season, water the trees each week if possible, particularly during periods of dry weather or drought.



*Caring about our communities goes beyond providing safe, reliable electric service.*