1. Unpack tree and sprinkle lightly with a little water.

2. Dig a hole, wider than seems necessary so the roots can spread without crowding. Remove any grass within a 3-foot circular area. To aid root growth, turn soil in an area up to 3 feet in diameter.

3. Plant the tree to accommodate length of roots without crowding. Partially fill the hole, firming the soil around the lower roots. Do not add soil amendments.

4. Shovel the remaining soil around the tree. It should be firmly (but not too tightly) packed. Shape a water-holding basin around the tree. Give the tree plenty of water.

5. After the water has soaked in, place a 2-inch deep protective mulch area 3 feet in diameter around the base of the tree (but not touching the trunk).

6. During dry weather, water the tree generously every week or 10 days during the first year. Water slowly at the dripline.