Do not prune terminal leader or branch tips.

Prune away dead or broken branches only.

Remove all labels, tags, tree wrap, tape or string from tree trunk and crown.

Prune off suckers.

Fold down or pull back string, burlap, plastic or soil to expose the trunk flare. Set rootball so that trunk flare is level to grade, or very slightly higher in clay soil.

Mulch 2" - 3.5" deep leaving 3" circle of bare soil around trunk of tree.

If possible, without disturbing developed roots, fold down or cut away burlap to expose rootball. Remove all non-degradable materials, cutting away wire basket to 10" depth.

Break up (scarify) sides of planting hole.

Center rootball in planting hole. Leave bottom of planting hole firm. Do not amend soil unless planting in severely disturbed soil or building rubble. Use shovels and water to settle soil and remove air pockets and firmly set tree.

Do not stake unless in heavy clay soil, windy conditions, 3" or greater diameter tree trunk or large crown. If staking is needed due to these conditions:

- Stake with 2 x 2 hardwood stakes, or approved equal, driven 6" - 8" outside of rootball.
- Loosely stake tree trunk to allow for trunk flexing.
- Stake trees just below first branch with 2" - 3" wide belt-like, nylon or plastic straps (2 per tree on opposite sides of tree, connect from tree to stake horizontally. Do not use rope or wire through a hose.)
- Remove all staking materials after 1 year.