

How to Transplant a Blue Palo Verde Tree

Blue palo verde tree (*Cercidium floridum*) is a native Southwestern tree in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 8 and 9. This member of the pea family produces blue-green leaves, which drop off the tree during cold or drought conditions. Showy clusters of bright yellow appear on the thorny branches in the spring or summer followed by pea-like seed pods more than 3 inches long. If transplanted in the right location, this tree grows up to 36 inches per year, reaching up to 35 feet tall.

1

Check the drainage of a site with full sun exposure and dry soil. Dig a hole as deep as a shovel blade and fill the hole with water. Blue palo verde trees require near perfect drainage to survive in areas with more than 10 inches of rainfall each year. The water should drain away in less than a minute. If it does not drain that quickly, find a more suitable location.

2

Dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball and just as deep. Scrape the sides and bottom of the hole with the edge of the shovel to prevent soil compaction.

3

Tilt the tree on its side and work the root ball out of the container. If the container is made of plastic, cut the root ball out with a sharp knife.

4

Loosen the roots around the edges of the root ball with your fingers. Spread the roots out in the hole, and add soil under the root ball so the top is an inch above ground level. This will improve the drainage around the roots.

5

Fill the hole around the roots with soil, gently firming the soil so the tree stands upright. Do not compact the soil over the roots.

6

Do not water the tree right after planting. This is a desert tree, and it is possible to over water the tree. Just mist the tree once in the middle of summer if it has not rained. Try to mimic desert rainfall and barely dampen the branches. After the first summer, do not water this tree. Let it survive off natural rainfall.

Things You Will Need

- Shovel
- Heavy-duty gloves
- Knife

Tip

- Put on heavy-duty gloves before handling the blue palo verde tree.

Warning

- Do not plant anything under the canopy of the blue palo verde tree. This tree creates a water-repellent area under the branches to the drip line. This adaptation protects the roots from becoming water-logged in wet soil.

<http://paloverdetree.com>