New Tree Owner Pledge

I WILL analyze my planting site and select a tree that will thrive in those conditions. My tree and planting site will be good matches. My site will accommodate my tree's potential for height and width once fully grown, provide appropriate levels of sun or shade as needed, and have soil that matches my tree's preference. _____

I WILL handle trees with care while transporting them. I will keep them watered and out of the sun until planting, and I will plant as soon as possible. I will never lift containerized trees by the trunk. _____

I WILL dig a hole twice as wide and the same depth as the root ball. I will prevent conditions that promote tree health issues by making sure the trunk is not covered by soil. I will make sure I can see the root flare, and that the first roots off the trunk are within 2 inches of the soil surface. _____

I WILL only stake trees if necessary, and I WILL remove all staking and wires after one year to avoid girdling the stem and reducing tree health and longevity. _____

I WILL mulch trees with 2-3 inches of a biodegradable mulch, creating a flat ring of mulch extending to the tree's dripline. I will make sure that mulch is pulled back from the trunk. I will reapply mulch and expand the mulch ring as needed. _____

I WILL water newly planted trees slowly and deeply when needed, letting water infiltrate into the first 6-8 inches of soil. I will not let the soil become dry and dusty and I will let soil dry out if it is saturated with water. I will pay particular attention to watering needs during times of extreme heat. _____

X _____

Georgia Tree COUNCIL