**12-Step Tree Adoption Aftercare Program**

1. Look up! Avoid planting under overhead power wires and streetlights.
2. Call 811 to locate underground utilities, before digging a hole.
3. Select a planting location at least 6-8 ft. from pavements, & 15 feet from the nearest building.
4. Dig a hole 2-3 times WIDER, but the SAME length/depth as the root ball.
5. Gently remove root ball from container and check for root defects e.g. circling roots; if present, slit circling roots at diagonal points of an ‘X’ around the root ball.
6. Carefully place tree in the planting hole and position top of root ball 1-2 inches above the soil level.
7. Straighten the tree.
8. Half-fill the planting hole with soil.
9. Fill planting hole with water to get rid of air pockets.
10. Finish backfilling the hole with soil.
11. Add mulch in an 8 ft. diameter ‘doughnut’ around the tree but keep it away from touching the trunk.
12. Water (1 gallon) daily first 2 weeks; next 2 months - every other day; next 3 months - weekly.

For more information, watch this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Dmmaemw4j0

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**Slash Pine**

*Pinus elliottii*

**Height:** 75 to 100 feet  
**Spread:** 35 to 50 feet  
**Light requirement:** full sun to partial shade  
**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; acidic; slightly alkaline; well-drained to occasionally wet  
**Drought tolerance:** high  
**Aerosol salt tolerance:** high

Slash Pines are a great addition to landscapes and are favored by wildlife, especially squirrels. Slash Pines are best planted in groups of 3 or more and do well in acidic soils. They may develop chlorosis (leaf yellowing) in highly alkaline soils or if irrigated with high-pH water.

Send us your questions: sarasota@ifas.ufl.edu  

Ref: UF/IFAS EDIS Factsheet:  
https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st463  
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