

Sample Tree Planting guide and care information.

PRACTICAL INFO FOR TREE PLANTING & TREE CARE

We want to make it easy for you to plant trees.

You can do it! And we don't want the logistics to stop you.

This practical guide will help you through site selection, tree buying, planting, and caring for your young tree, so that it will get established and thrive through a long and beautiful life.

Where will your tree(s) benefit you the most?

Large-growing shade trees provide many benefits wherever you plant them. To cool your house and save on air conditioning, planting them to the southwest of your house is most effective, with south or west excellent choices as well. To minimize pollution runoff entering our streams, plant where the canopies will spread over paved areas, such as our streets.

Distance from structures

Your tree will grow larger than you might imagine. It is best to plant **shade trees 15 or so feet** from any multi-story house, even though the canopy of shade trees can be shaped by early pruning to avoid the house. If you have a ranch or other 1-story house, the shade tree should be 10 feet from the house.

What species to buy? To maximize the benefits and the resilience of our city tree population, the strategy is to plant (1) **diverse** species, (2) **native** species, and (3) wherever space allows, **large-growing** species.

Our recommended shade tree species are: (create list of trees)

When to plant? Fall, when nature generally provides both rain and cooler weather, is the ideal time to get your young tree started.

How to plant? The survival of your tree depends on proper planting. We have put together detailed planting instructions, whether you bought a seedling, a container/potted tree, a bare root tree, or a ball-and-burlap tree. But the **basic planting principles** can be summarized as:

- 1. Dig a WIDE & SHALLOW HOLE**
(**about 1 foot deep; 4 feet wide – see #4 below**)
- 2. Set stakes before** setting the tree.
- 3. BE GENTLE** with the roots and trunk.
- 4. Set the tree straight & NOT TOO DEEP!!**
Keep the root flare visible above soil.
- 5. ASK your LEAD PLANTER**
to CHECK & APPROVE
the depth & straightness of the tree
BEFORE YOU PUT DIRT BACK
into the hole
- 6. If compost is at the site**, mix it into the soil
before filling the hole.