

Tips to care for your new tree

Water your tree immediately after planting and if it does not rain more than 1 inch every 7-10 days. When watering, slowly trickle water over the tree's root ball for 1-2 hours. Alternatively, use water bags or 5-gallon buckets with a small hole drilled into the side near the bottom. Place the bucket or bag by the tree to slowly deliver 5-10 gallons of water. Water until the ground freezes hard in late fall.

Mulch around the tree to prevent mower and weed wacker damage and to retain moisture. Do not pile the mulch against the bark of the tree like a volcano; instead create a moat or donut around the tree.

Protect the tree's trunk during the winter.

Tree wrap will help prevent sunscald, while plastic tubes, wire and/or hard plastic mesh will help prevent rabbit damage. Larger cages will help prevent deer damage.

If staking is deemed necessary, remove stakes after one year.

If necessary, use 2-3 stakes or fence posts and a commercially available flexible material or pantyhose that will not cause injury to the trunk, and will allow the tree to have some movement.

Avoid pruning in the first year except to remove dead, diseased and damaged branches. After the tree has made it through transplant shock (typically 1-2 years) gradually prune for clearance, a strong central leader, and good form.

Trees Forever is a nonprofit working to plant a better tomorrow where you live, work and play.



Photo: Karen Brook Mukhopadhyaya

Learn about conservation through hands-on classes and helpful consultations. Sign up for our monthly email newsletter, TreeNews, to learn about ongoing volunteer and grant opportunities, as well as information about tree maintenance and care.

Help plant a better tomorrow by becoming a member!

More information at
www.TreesForever.org

Your Roadmap *to Plant and Care for Trees*

A Guide for Homeowners

Your Roadmap to Plant and Care for Trees

Start Here

Take the following steps for a successful tree planting!

1

Pick a location with energy saving benefits

For shade for cooling:

- 15-60 feet from west side of home
- 15-60 feet from east side of home
- Near built surfaces (sidewalks, streets, driveway)
- Near air conditioning units

For winter windbreaks:

- Evergreens on N and W sides of home

2

Avoid potential conflicts

Be aware of:

- Overhead or underground utilities/easements
- Any local requirements/regulations on tree plantings
- Obstructions to traffic and future blind spots

Consider proximity to:

- Pavement or fencing
- Buildings and other trees



3

Consider site conditions

- Soil type: clay, loam, sandy?
- Moisture: is it wet, dry, medium?
- Soil pH
- Exposure: sunlight, partial shade, shade?

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Species selection

Choose a species suited to:

- Site conditions (see no. 3)
- Available space

Consider:

- Resistance to storm damage
- Mature shape, e.g., oval, vase, pyramidal, columnar, etc. ?

- Mature size – the larger the mature tree, the greater the benefits
- Growing zone
- DIVERSITY - Choose trees not already over-planted in your community/neighborhood
- Interesting characteristics – fall color, fruits, seeds

5

Site preparation

At least 48 hours before you dig:

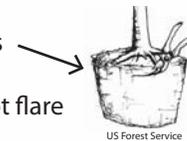
Call JULIE, 811



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Planting

- Edge of planting hole should be **18 inches from buried utilities**
- Hole width should be 2-3 times size of root ball
- Cut any circling roots
- Expose root flare
- Plant tree so that root flare is level with the surrounding grade



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Congratulations!

Your tree is settled in its new home.

Flip this brochure to find tips on tree care.

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For more information: www.treesforever.org
www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/forestry/urbanforestry

This graphic was originally created with funding from Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative