

YOU CAN Plant a Tree

TREE PLANTING



DESCRIPTION: Trees can be planted to provide a natural cooling effect to your home and stormwater management for your property or to restore a portion of your property to forested conditions.



TIME/COMPLEXITY: 4 hours, easy



COST: variable: \$50 to \$400 per tree, depending on size and plant choices



TOOLS/MATERIALS: shovel, tree of your choice, soil additives, mulch

STEPS:

- 1. LOCATION:** Select a location for the tree based on aesthetics (how will it look there), shade (will it be needed to provide shade), screen (blocking unsightly views), and view (enhancing nice views). Set a stake in the proposed location, then check the area for any underground or overhead utilities that may be encountered. Perform a ONE-CALL* to locate any underground utilities before you dig. Reset the stake if needed to avoid any utilities.
- 2. TREE SELECTION:** Select a tree to fit the location! Whether the location is wet or dry, sunny or shady, acidic or neutral soil, there should be a couple of choices. Look nearby to notice what plants are thriving or do a little research starting with "Landscaping with Native Plants" on the PA DCNR website.

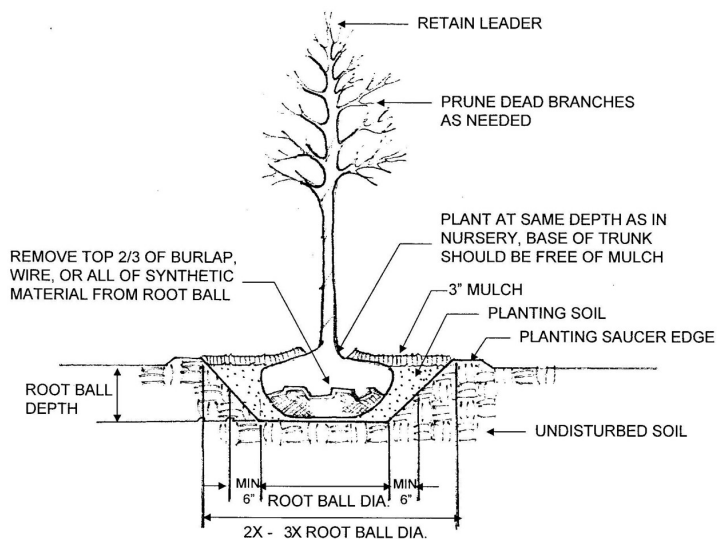
In choosing a tree, its mature size and shape, and whether it has spring flowers, summer fruit, fall color, or evergreen leaves or needles should also be considered. For more information on specific plants start with what is available at your local nursery or research trees on the "USDA Plant Database" online.

3. PLANTING:

- Dig the hole three times the width of the root ball, and 6 inches deeper to create room to grow.
- Save the soil and mix with soil additives (like aged compost or other nutrient rich material), for use in backfilling the hole.
- Place 6 inches of the soil mix in the hole and tamp.
- While the top of the tree is accessible, prune any broken or odd branches to improve its shape. Do not cut the leader or main branch.
- Remove any synthetic material from the root ball, and place the tree upright in the hole with the best side facing the most important view.
- Backfill the hole in 4 to 6 inch layers, gently tamping and watering each layer to prevent the soil from settling around the root ball, and mulch the surface to keep weeds from volunteering. The base of the trunk should be free of mulch, to avoid a "volcano" shape of mulch at tree's base.



TREE PLANTING





Removing wrapping from a root ball



Backfill root ball in layers with rich soil.



Watering the tree

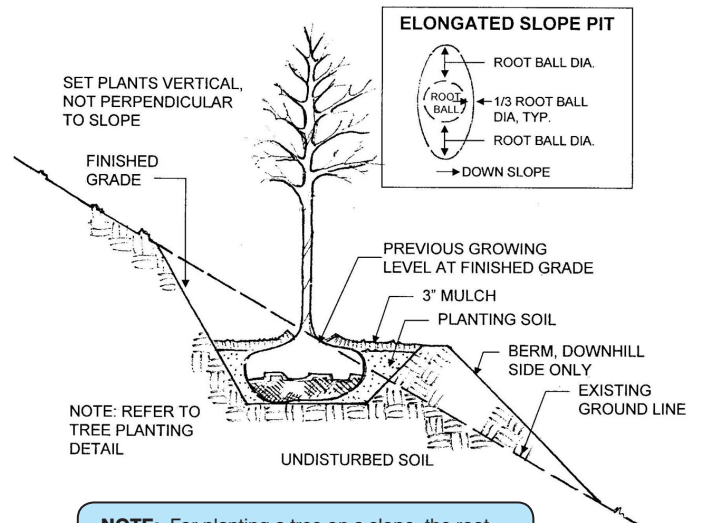
4. FINISHING TOUCHES: Soak the root ball with water. Check the tree planting once a week for the first month and water as necessary.

Fall is for planting, but so are spring and summer! Just make sure the tree is well watered during dry spells.

5. MAINTENANCE: Establish a mulch ring to protect the trunk from weed trimmers and mowers. Remove volunteer weeds and remulch every year. Prune broken or dead branches as needed to maintain its shape.



SLOPE TREE PLANTING



NOTE: For planting a tree on a slope, the root ball should not be exposed on the downhill side. Build a berm with the material excavated from the hole to cover the rootball.

PLANT SECTION

Any native tree will do, but these are nice looking and the best for managing stormwater

Small Trees

(15' to 30' height at maturity, plant approx. 15'-20' apart)

- Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala*)
- Shadblow Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)
- Alleghany Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)
- American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
- Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)

Large Trees

(30' to 60' height at maturity, plant approx. 30' apart)

- Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
- River Birch (*Betula nigra*)
- Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
- Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
- Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
- American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
- Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)
- Willow species (*Salix* species)

Check out "Landscaping with Native Plants" on the DCNR website <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/nativeplants/> and the "Native Plant Database" <https://plants.usda.gov/java/> on the USDA website for more choices and selection criteria.

To Learn More:

http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/forests/urban-community/publications/pruning-landscape-trees/extension_publication_file

<http://extension.psu.edu/publications/ee0127/view>

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