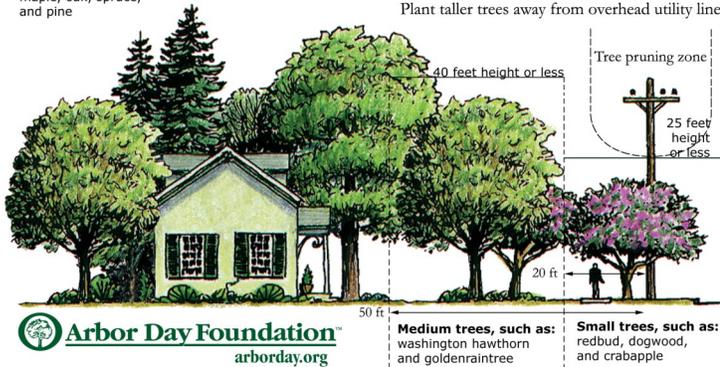


Best Management Practices: Right Tree, Right Place

When considering what tree and where to plant it, remember the phrase “Right Tree, Right Place.” Choosing the right tree depends on many factors including soil type, climate, and the amount of space the tree will have both underground and overhead.

Tall trees, such as:
maple, oak, spruce,
and pine

Plant the right tree in the right place
Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines



Arbor Day Foundation
arborday.org

Medium trees, such as:
washington hawthorn
and goldenrain tree

Small trees, such as:
redbud, dogwood,
and crabapple

Q. What species of tree is right for me?

- A. There are many factors to consider when choosing the right tree species for you. Soil type, light exposure, soil moisture, average climate, hardiness zone, surrounding vegetation, and the goals you have for your tree (e.g., shade, protection from wind) are important considerations. There are many resources available online to help you identify choices of tree species appropriate for you such as Arbor Day Foundation’s interactive “Best Tree Finder: Tree Wizard” (<http://arborday.org/shopping/trees/treewizard/intro.cfm>).

Q. What are the benefits of planting the *Right Tree* in the *Right Place*?

- A. By carefully selecting the right tree for your planting location, you can maximize the immeasurable benefits trees provide. For instance, to help cut the cost of high energy bills in the summer, consider planting a shade tree along the east, west or northwest sides of your house to block the hot summer sun. To break the force of harsh winter winds, plant evergreen trees along the northwest side of your house.

Q. Can I plant a tree if I have limited growing space on my property?

- A. Yes! However, it is important to choose a tree that does not require more space than your site can provide. To avoid any conflicts with overhead obstructions (e.g., powerlines, utility poles, buildings) or underground obstructions (e.g., pipes, building foundations), consider the tree’s height and shape at maturity. If there are no overhead space limitations, consider a tall shade tree (e.g., oak, London plane tree) which may provide the maximum ecosystem services to the community. For spaces with overhead space limitations, smaller ornamental trees are most appropriate, and will still provide your community with great tree-related benefits. A tree needs plenty of room to grow underground too – tree roots can extend up to two to three times the width of the crown (the leaves and branches of the tree). There is a free service available nationwide to have your planting site surveyed for underground utilities – call 8-1-1 at least three days prior to planting to schedule a survey.

Q. Who can I contact for further advice or help?

- A. It never hurts to get an expert opinion – consulting an expert early on in your tree’s life will ensure that your tree lives a long and healthy life in your community. A tree care professional can advise you on the best species choice for your location. To help you communicate the specifics of your site, complete a site checklist such as the one available through the Brooklyn Botanic Garden website (<http://www.bbg.org/pdf/treesite.pdf>) and share it with your local nursery, licensed arborist, or others (see chart below).

Local Nursery: Your local nursery will be able to provide you with valuable advice pertaining to your geographic location. Experienced in understanding what trees are well suited to your area, they can help you pick a tree that is compatible with the local climate.

Agriculture Experiment Station: Every state has an agricultural experiment station, and many offer free soil testing. Some state universities offer similar services.

Licensed Arborist: A licensed arborist is well qualified to advise you on optimal tree selection and especially the stewardship of mature trees.