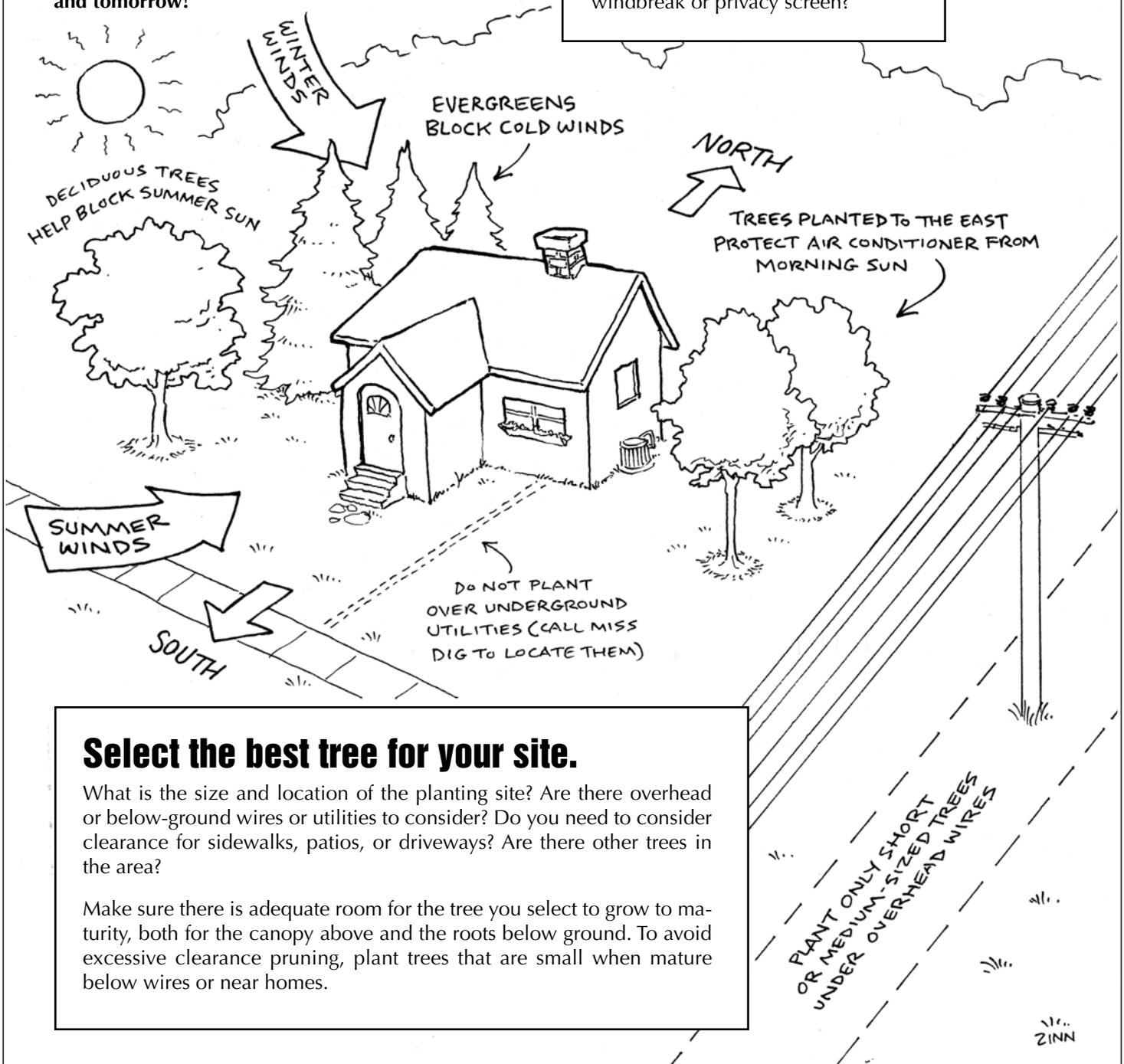


Selecting the Right Tree for the Right Place

What species will be the best match for your yard? Most trees have the potential to outlive the people who plant them, so the impact of tree selection is one that can influence generations to come. Match the best tree to your site requirements for benefits today and tomorrow!

Function: Why is the tree being planted?

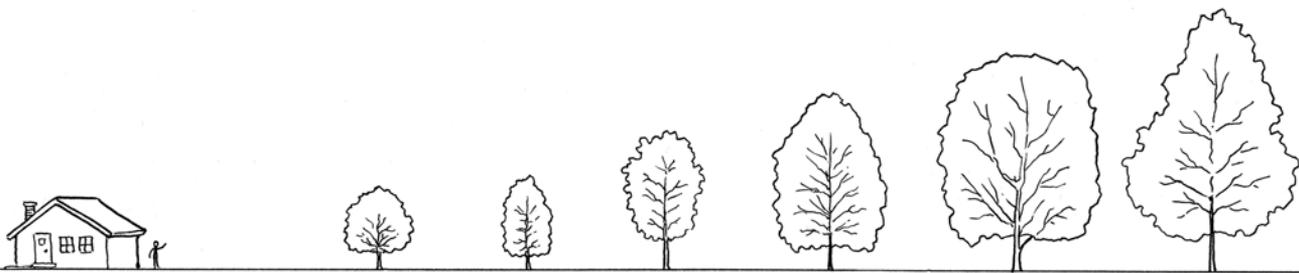
Do you want the tree to provide shade, fruit, or seasonal color? To attract birds or wildlife? To serve as a windbreak or privacy screen?



Select the best tree for your site.

What is the size and location of the planting site? Are there overhead or below-ground wires or utilities to consider? Do you need to consider clearance for sidewalks, patios, or driveways? Are there other trees in the area?

Make sure there is adequate room for the tree you select to grow to maturity, both for the canopy above and the roots below ground. To avoid excessive clearance pruning, plant trees that are small when mature below wires or near homes.



Tree Size	Shrubs & Small Trees (30' or shorter)	Medium Trees (30-70')	Large Trees (70' or taller)
Example Species <small>*native species</small>	Dogwood* Hornbeam* Redbud Witch Hazel*	Blackgum Bur Oak* Gingko Hackberry*	Dawn redwood Kentucky Coffee Tree Sweetgum Tulip Tree*
Space between trees	6-15'	30-40'	40-50'
Space from wall of 1-story building	5-10'	15'	20'
Space from corner of 1-story building	6-8'	12'	15'

These examples represent typical mature heights in urban conditions. Visit the USDA PLANTS Database at <http://plants.usda.gov> for expected mature height and crown spread of trees you are considering.

Select a Tree Species

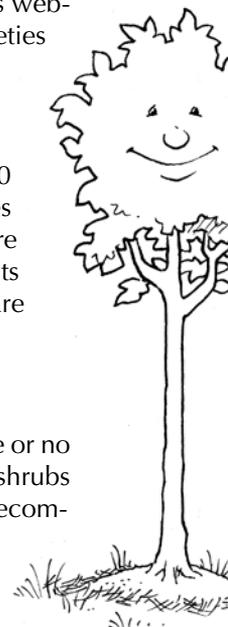
Once you have a sense of what tree functions you would like to add to your property and the size of mature tree the site will accommodate, look at a variety of trees that fit your criteria. Visit the City's web-pages at www.a2gov.org/trees for some examples of beautiful and less overplanted tree varieties to consider. Visit your local nursery, read plant tags, and talk to the staff.

Diversity – Let's Not Plant More Ash or Maple Trees

The Emerald Ash Borer beetle significantly impacted the City of Ann Arbor because nearly 20 percent of our trees were ash! Currently, more than 30 percent of Ann Arbor's remaining trees are maples, which makes our urban forest vulnerable to other species-specific pests. With more species diversity, pests cannot travel as easily from one tree to the next. Diversity also results in a more visually interesting tree population year round. Note: several maple species that are still uncommon in Ann Arbor are posted on the web at www.a2gov.org/trees.

Tip: Go Native*

Michigan's native species are well adapted to our local growing conditions; they require little or no special treatment such as irrigation, fertilization, or soil amendments. Additionally, native shrubs and trees provide ideal food and habitat for local wildlife. For more information and lists of recommended native species (and problematic invasive species), consult the City's Natural Areas Preservation Program at www.a2gov.org/nap.



Successful Tree Planting Steps

A properly planted and maintained tree will grow faster and live longer than one that is incorrectly planted. An incorrectly planted tree may barely survive for a few years and then die off—after the soil with the root ball has been exhausted and the guarantee expired. Follow the steps below to give your tree its best possible start for a long and healthy life.



Step 1: Call Miss Dig/ Get a Forestry Permit

Before digging in your yard, you must contact “Miss Dig” at least one week in advance at **1-800-482-7171** to identify the location of the underground utilities including cable, electric, gas, fiber optics, and water lines near your proposed future tree location. If needed, shift your planting area appropriately to avoid damaging the utility service lines. The Miss Dig service is free. If you are planting a street tree in your extension, you must get permission from the city’s forestry office by using the (free) forestry permit process: (734) 994-2768.

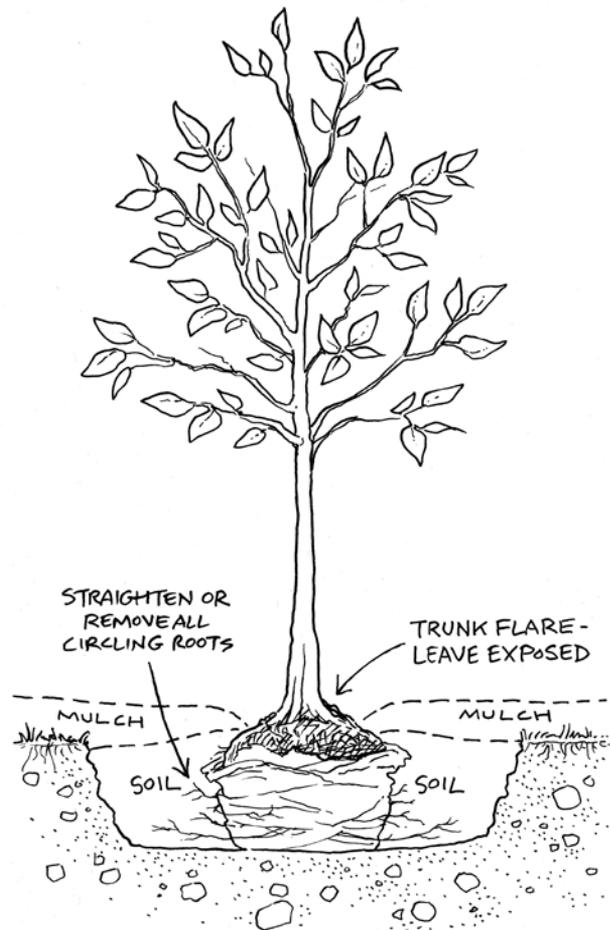
Step 2: Dig wide, not deep

Dig the hole two (good) to three (best) times as wide as the diameter of the root ball. Creating a large area of loosened soil provides the newly emerging roots room to expand into loose soil, hastening establishment.

Dig the hole no deeper than the height of the trunk flare! The trunk flare – the point where roots spread at the base of the tree – should be partially visible after the tree has been planted. If the tree is planted too deeply, new roots will have difficulty developing because of a lack of oxygen. It is better to plant the tree a few inches high than to plant it below the former growing level. To find the trunk flare, carefully peel back the burlap and remove soil from around the trunk.

To avoid damage when setting the tree into the hole, always lift the tree by the root ball and never by the trunk.

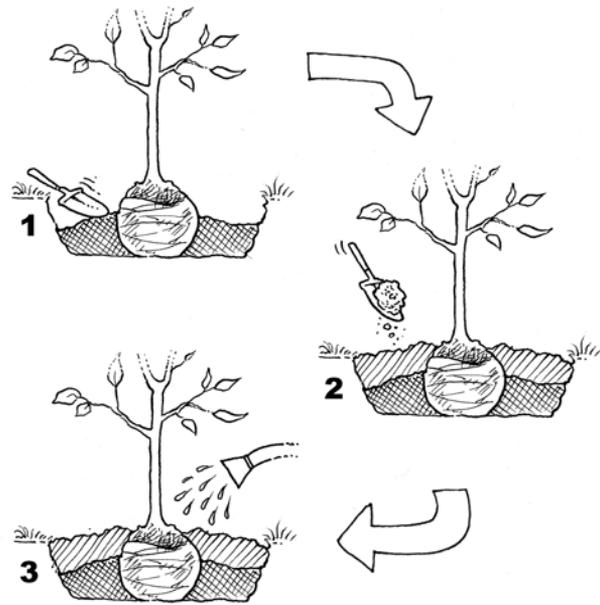
Before you begin refilling the hole with dirt, have someone view the tree from several directions to confirm that the tree is straight. Once you begin backfilling, it is difficult to reposition the tree.



Step 3: Refill the dirt, water

Using a shovel, fill the hole about one-third full of soil and gently but firmly pack the soil around the base of the root ball. If the tree is balled and burlapped, cut and remove the string and wire from around the trunk and top third of the root ball and cut away or roll back the top burlap as shown in the drawing. Be careful not to damage the trunk or roots in the process.

Fill the remainder of the hole with dirt, taking care to shovel the soil a few inches at a time into air pockets, which cause roots to dry out. Do not stomp the soil with your feet as this practice compacts the soil too much. Instead, use the shovel to work soil in and around the root ball, filling in the air pockets, until the hole is filled and the tree is firmly planted. Deeply water the tree as described in step 5. It is not recommended to apply fertilizer at the time of planting.



Step 4: Apply Mulch

Spread two-to-four inches of organic matter around the base of the tree to hold moisture, moderate soil temperature extremes, and reduce competition from grass and weeds. Good mulch varieties include shredded bark, wood chips, leaf litter, or pine needles. Adding more than four inches of mulch may cause a problem with oxygen and moisture levels. Leave a 3" mulch-free area around the base of the tree to avoid moist bark conditions and prevent decay.

Step 5: Water Often; Treat Kindly

Help your tree establish by watering it once a week in dry conditions throughout the first two summers and into late fall, and then once a month the following two summers. It should be watered deeply (12" to 18") so that the water can soak down to the depth at which it may be used by the tree. A good watering is 15 gallons applied slowly, with a soaker hose or a hose on a slow trickle, for approximately 30 minutes/week within the mulched area around the tree.

Try to keep grass and weeds away from the base of the tree, as they compete for necessary water and nutrients. Avoid spraying any broad-leaf weed killers, such as weed and feed, turf builder, etc., near the base of your tree. Also, keep weed whips and mowers away from the trunk. Stripping enough small chunks of bark off a tree can cause death.

