



Tree planting tips for success

Careful site selection is crucial when planting a tree, as the location and conditions directly affect the tree's long-term health and can help avoid future maintenance and repair costs.

Key Factors to Consider Before Planting

Sunlight, Drainage, and Soil Conditions

- **Sunlight Requirements:** Trees needing full sun require at least six hours of direct sunlight daily, partial shade require at least 4 hours of direct sunlight, and shade requires at least 2 hours.
- **Drainage:** Sloped yards may cause water retention at the bottom; consider water needs and drainage issues.
- **Soil Chemistry:** Conduct a soil test to determine necessary amendments for healthy growth.

Adequate Space & Growth Planning

- Know the tree's mature height, crown spread, and root space requirements.
- Avoid planting too close to structures, sidewalks, driveways, or utilities.
- Poor placement can lead to hazards and costly maintenance later.

Know where your utilities and septic drain field are

- Check for overhead power lines and underground utility lines before digging, including electrical, gas, water line, and fiber optic.
- Locate your water meter and main water line coming into your home.
- If you are on septic, locate your septic tank and drain field and plant well away from it
- Ensure adequate vertical and horizontal space for safe growth.



Pre-Planting Assessment Checklist

Sun, Soil, & Drainage

- Verify **sunlight exposure**: Does the site provide at least 6 hours of direct sun for full-sun species?
- Conduct a **soil test** for pH and nutrient levels.
- Assess **drainage**: Avoid areas prone to standing water unless planting water-tolerant species.
- Plan for **soil amendments** if needed.

Space & Growth Planning

- Measure available space for **mature height and crown spread**.
- Ensure **root zone clearance** from sidewalks, driveways, and foundations.
- Maintain safe distance from **structures and fences**.

Utility & Safety Check

- Look for **overhead power lines**—avoid tall-growing species beneath them.
- Call local utility service to **mark underground lines** before digging, including electrical and gas.
- Locate your **water meter** and **main water line** coming into your home
- If you are on septic, **locate your septic drain field**
- Confirm **vertical and horizontal clearance** for future growth.

Final Review

- Double-check **local regulations or HOA guidelines** for tree placement.
- Prepare **mulch and watering plan** for post-planting care.