

Tree Planting

Planting native trees and shrubs to restore a portion of your property to forested conditions is good for your property values, good for native wildlife, good for your local watershed and good for the Bay.

- Landscaping can add 10 to 20 percent more value to a property - especially landscaping that incorporates mature trees¹.
- Using native plant material is ideal because they tend to thrive when planted in our home gardens.
- Plants are not optional — we can't live without them. By gardening with native plants — no matter where you live or how small or large your space is — you can help sustain wildlife.²
- Trees and shrubs increase infiltration and evapotranspiration of stormwater and remove pollutants, which improves water quality.



Small bare root trees and shrubs are relatively inexpensive and can be installed by the home-owner by hand. Large ones, such as the 2 inch caliper oak being planted in the picture, may cost \$150 - \$200 and may require some heavy equipment and the help of experts.

Where should I plant my tree?

- a. Choose an area with adequate space for the tree to grow.
- b. Consider the soil conditions. Is it wet or dry? Consider the soil pH and texture.
- c. Choose native plant material whenever possible
- d. Select your tree size.
- e. Determine sun and wind conditions on your property.
- f. Avoid planting above underground utilities (Step 3 in "Assessing Your Property") and below transmission lines (large trees only).

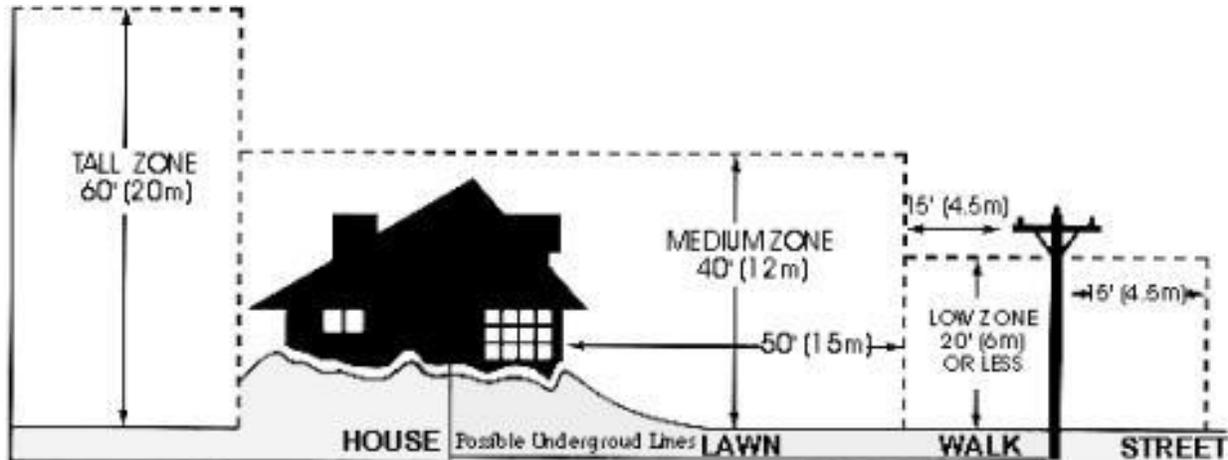
Proper Places for Trees around Homes

¹ www.realty101.com/value-of-a-tree-in-your-yard; www.arboday.org/trees/benefits.cfm

² Doug Tallamy, Bringing Nature Home www.plantanative.com/

Homeowner Guide for a More Bay- Friendly Property

Not everywhere in your yard is appropriate for planting a tree. Save yourself time and money by planting your tree in the right location. The following illustration indicates approximately what types of trees should be planted in relation to your home and utility lines.



12

Tree selection is one of the most important investment decisions a home owner makes when landscaping a home or replacing a tree lost to damage or disease. Considering that most trees have the potential to outlive the people who plant them, the impact of this decision is one that can influence a lifetime. Match the tree to the site, and both lives will benefit.

When choosing the type of tree you are going to plant, think about the following questions:

- Why is the tree being planted?
- What is the size and location of the planting site?
- What is the ultimate size of the tree (i.e., is there enough room for the tree to grow?)
- Which type of soil conditions exist? Some trees are better suited for particular soils. Consult with your nursery before purchasing your tree.
- Which type of maintenance are you willing to provide?

Asking and answering these and other questions before selecting a tree will help you choose the "right tree for the right place." Local nurseries or garden centers can provide some insight into which tree is best suited for your site.

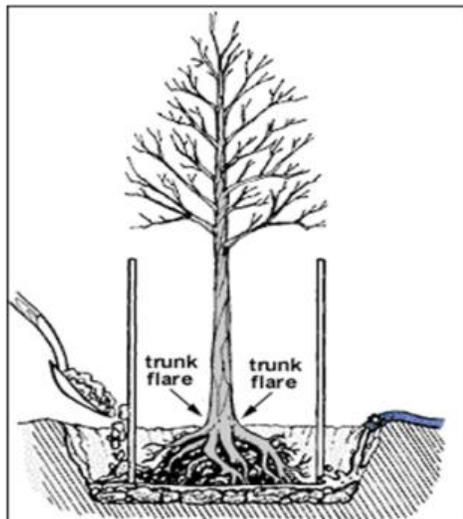
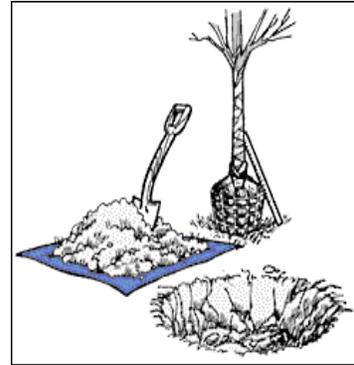
How do I plant my tree?

Step 1: Mark the space(s) where trees will be planted

Mark each location where a tree will be planted ahead of time. This certainly makes the planting easier if multiple people are working together on getting the trees in the ground.

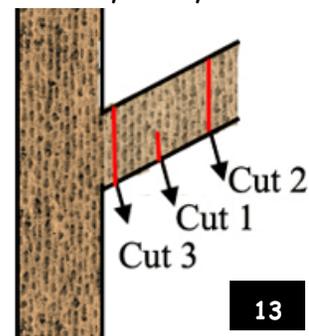
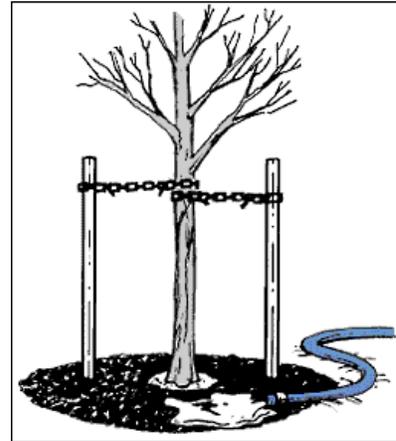
Step 2: Planting

- Size the hole according to the dimensions of the root ball and the type of container (bare root, containerized or balled & burlapped). The hole should be twice the size of the diameter and the same depth as the root ball so that when you place the tree in the hole, the basal trunk flare is flush with the ground level.
- Backfill with native soil, adding small amounts of mulch or shredded mulch if desired.
- Apply 2-3 inches of mulch, keeping away from the trunk. A common practice for applying mulch is 3"x3"x3" which means: 3" from the base of the tree, 3" deep and 3" around the tree
- Do not stomp on soil to pack it down. Watering the tree will remove the air packets.
- If necessary, stake for support, using breakaway tree ties or a piece of rubber hose to minimize chaffing and scaring of the tree trunk.
- Protect young trees from being nibbled on by using tree shelters (tubes) or fencing (as seen in the picture below).
- Water deep and generously.



How do I care for my tree?

- Water is the critical factor for tree survival after planting. Deep water regularly throughout the first growing season. Allow water to run slowly, soaking the soil, once or twice a week. You can use tree watering bags or 5 gallon buckets with small holes drilled in the bottom. Water at the perimeter or edge of planting site. Deep watering will encourage the development of deep tree roots.
- Newly planted trees should be watered from May to October. At least 15 gallons is needed each time you water. As a general rule, at least 1" of rain will provide sufficient rain for a newly planted tree. Water young trees weekly when the ground is dry. Do not over water.
- Keep lawn mowers and string trimmers away from tree to avoid wounding trunk. Reduce herbicide use near tree and in surrounding lawn.
- Never fertilize stressed trees. Fertilizer is not tree food. It should be applied (if absolutely necessary) only after first year. Consider applying a layer of compost or leaf mulch first. When used, fertilizer should be applied at the perimeter edge of the planting site.
- Start an annual tree inspection program while tree is young to head off problems early.
- Replace mulch as needed, as mulch will help retain moisture for the tree. Keep grass and weeds out of mulched area. They compete for the same water and elements as tree.
- Remove stakes and strapping after one year unless site is extremely windy. Do not stake longer than two years. Remove tree tubes when trees reach about 3 inches in diameter at the base.
- Prune while young to maintain size and shape beginning in the second growing season. Prune dead or injured branches immediately. The picture to the right demonstrates the proper way to prune a tree



Homeowner Guide for a More Bay- Friendly Property

- Do not top trees to reduce height (remove large branches from a tree's canopy).
- Call a licensed arborist for advice on large pruning jobs, hazard trees, and insect or disease problems. Nonprofessionals should never prune near utility wires.
- Do not plant flowers under a tree. Do not cultivate soil under the tree.
- Continue deep watering for five years after planting.
- Finally, if you plant a tree - register it!!

Resources

There are a lot of on-line resources available which provide a lot of detail about planting trees. For this overview, we have drawn upon the following websites:

- For Design, Installation and Maintenance:
<http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/uh143.pdf>
- For Selection, Purchasing and Avoiding Tree & Utility Conflicts:
www.treesaregood.com/treecare/treecareinfo.aspx
- Aftercare, plus great set of checklists:
http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/uf/plant_trees/planting_trees.htm

There are a number of local urban forestry programs that promote tree planting and provide assistance and incentives to homeowners planting trees. Check with your local government or watershed group for more information.

- "Marylanders Plant Trees" program <http://www.trees.maryland.gov/register.asp>
- Richmond Tree Stewards <http://richmondtreestewards.org/>

