

Tree Planting Guide

Planting a tree provides countless benefits so getting it right is very important. Any professional in the industry will agree that the “right tree in the right place” is one of the keys to success. Here are a few things to consider when choosing the perfect tree for your property:

- Consider your soil – wet, dry, clay, sandy, acid or alkaline?
- Space – how much room is needed above and below ground?
- Hardiness Zone – minimum temperature the tree will tolerate. Peterborough is 5a/5b.
- Plant aesthetics – leaf, flower, fruit, bark, tree shape. Fall colour or spring flower?
- Tree benefits – Shading, wind break, screening/privacy or even wildlife value.

Visit www.treescapecanada.ca and try out our Tree Search app to narrow down your tree selection and view pictures of your choices.

Try to obtain locally grown stock that is free of damage or injury. Look for branches that are spaced evenly around and up the stem and a single strong leading shoot. Also look for roots that wrap themselves around the pot or root ball and make sure the root ball is moist.

There is far too much advice available on planting trees to fit in this article so here are some of the most important things to keep in mind:

- Dig the planting hole at least twice the diameter of the root ball/pot and the same depth.
- Plant at the right depth! The first structural roots of the tree should be visible and slightly higher than grade to allow for settlement.
- Where possible remove any wire cages and burlap from the root ball.
- Arrange your tree in the hole and put back the native soil you excavated in 4-6 inch layers, tamping as you go. Avoid adding fertilizer and heavy compost.
- If necessary, support the tree with material that won't damage the bark and only leave in place for the first growth season.
- To finish, create a 3-4 inch thick mulch circle approximately the size of the branch spread and keeping the mulch several inches away from the base of the tree.
- Lastly, water it thoroughly and continue to water thoroughly during the first season when the ground is dry.

When in doubt contact your local and reputable certified arborist for assistance in selecting and planting your tree.

Finally, to ensure your tree's success, a good rule of thumb is; *water the first year, feed (fertilize) the second year and prune the third.*



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