

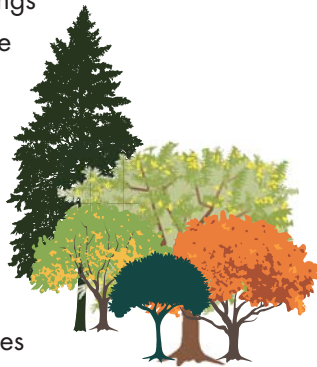
Trees Are Beautiful and Practical

Many different and beautiful trees can be grown successfully in Arizona when planted in the proper place and cared for correctly. Trees improve the appearance of the landscape, provide shade during hot summer months or a windbreak in high wind areas.

Arizona's distinctive ecological features create unique challenges and opportunities for tree planting. Variations in temperature, soil type, elevation and precipitation are just some of the conditions encountered.

Trees

- Provide shade
- Beautify our surroundings
- Absorb carbon dioxide
- Supply oxygen
- Help the environment
- Conserve water
- Create civic pride
- Reduce soil erosion
- Give wildlife a home
- Increase property values
- Reduce energy use and lower utility costs
- Reduce noise pollution
- Lower air temperatures
- Add character to neighborhoods
- Reduce storm water run-off
- Provide a sense of peace and tranquility



Site Selection

Where you plant your tree will have an enormous impact on its future health. Trees are healthiest and most attractive when they're allowed to grow naturally to their full size and shape. Your site selection will be one of the most important considerations for tree planting success. Remember to plant the right tree in the right place. Consider these conditions when evaluating a planting location:

- Sunlight: seasonal angle, daily temperatures, full sun, part sun or shade;
- Air: circulation, prevailing wind, pollution;
- Water: when and how much rainfall, type and source of supplemental irrigation, drainage;
- Soil: texture, fertility, pH, depth;
- Special conditions: caliche, Texas root rot, etc.;
- Energy savings: place shade trees on south and west sides of your home; and
- Barriers: buildings, sidewalks, limit tree height to 15–20 feet under power lines.

Join the ACTC

To become an ACTC member or to make a donation to the ACTC, please go to the ACTC website at www.aztrees.org

For more information, contact:
Conni Ingallina, Executive Director
Arizona Community Tree Council
e-mail: execdirector@aztrees.org
web site: www.aztrees.org

For More Information

Visit the ACTC website at www.aztrees.org or contact:

- Your local nursery
- The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Office in your county
- Trees Are Good www.treesaregood.com
- The Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture www.wcisa.net
- International Society of Arboriculture www.isa-arbor.com
- The Arizona State Forestry Division www.azsf.az.gov

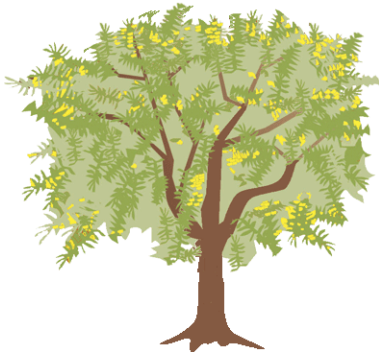


Arizona Tree Planting Guide



The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago; The next best time is now!

- Anonymous



Tree Selection

Choosing trees native to your region or state, that are well adapted to your climate and conditions greatly increases success. A tremendous selection of plants are available to meet almost any situation.

Right Tree, Right Place

Be sure to consider site conditions when selecting a tree. Choose small trees for small areas. Place large or tall-growing trees in areas where there is plenty of room for the spread of roots and branches, and where the trees will have room to grow to maturity without severe pruning.

Decide what function the tree should have — such as shade, windbreak or accent. By knowing the conditions the tree must meet, it will make your choice easier. You should also consider the following when selecting a tree:

- What is the size at maturity?
- Is it adaptable to your environment?
- What are the tree's maintenance requirements?
- Is it compatible with other plants and animals?
- Is it disease and pest resistant?

For more information, contact:
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Tree Planting

Most trees have a shallow spreading root system with a few deep anchoring roots. University research shows that tree roots grow within the top two feet of the soil and spread well beyond the drip line of the tree.

Follow these steps when planting a tree:

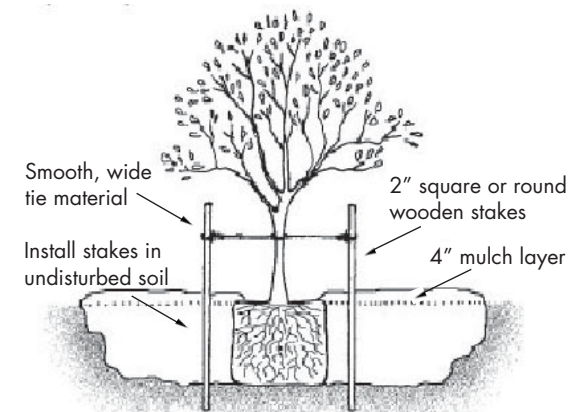
1. Moisten the area where you intend to plant a few days prior to digging.
2. Till the soil in the planting area 4-5 times the diameter and no deeper than the root ball. Tilling soil will improve aeration and root growth.
3. In the center of the tilled area, dig the planting hole twice as wide but only as deep as the root ball. The edges of the excavated area should be rough and sloping. A shallow hole prevents the tree from sinking and burying the trunk.
4. Gently slide the root ball out of the container, handling the plant by the root ball and not the trunk. Check the root ball for matted or circling roots. If needed, score the sides and bottom of the root ball to cut and separate roots. Shaving the sides of the root ball helps to relieve bound and circling roots.
5. Place the tree carefully into the planting hole. Remove just enough soil from the top of the root ball to expose the root collar, which should be level or slightly above the surrounding soil.
6. Backfill with native soil. There is no need to add amendments. Do not compact the backfill. Studies show there is no advantage to mixing compost or other organic amendment into the soil.
7. If hand watering or using bubbler irrigation, form a berm just outside the root ball to create an irrigation well. Apply water within this area. As the tree grows, expand the well. If using a drip system, use 2-3 emitters to wet this same area. Increase the number of emitters as the tree grows.
8. Apply a 2-4 inch layer of mulch to the entire tilled area. Keep mulch away from the trunk.

Tree Staking

Always remove the stakes that were placed on the tree at the nursery. These are usually located close against the trunk or are placed into the root ball of the tree.

Stake your tree only if absolutely necessary. Staking can do more harm than good to a young tree.

- If staking is necessary, use two stakes placed outside of the root ball.
- Allow small branches to remain on the trunk for the first year to provide shade and nourishment for the tree.
- Use non-abrasive ties placed loosely around the trunk about six inches above the location on the trunk that will hold the tree in an upright position.
- Check ties frequently and remove as soon as possible. When a tree is allowed to bend and move in the wind, the trunk will develop greater strength.



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Caring for Young Trees

After planting, thoroughly water the entire area. Subsequent water should be applied close to the tree trunk for 6-12 months, then moved outward to the edge of the canopy to accommodate the spreading roots.

Trees should be watered to wet the entire root zone and to get good, deep penetration into the soil. During the first year, the tree may need to be watered as often as once every 5-7 days. Once established, water needs should be less frequent. The exact schedule will depend on the type of tree, type of soil and the time of year.

Newly planted trees need no fertilizer. A small amount of fertilizer may be applied starting the second year.

Do not prune the newly planted tree during the first year, except to remove dead or badly damaged branches. Allowing lower branches to remain will help the tree to establish faster, develop strength and increase trunk diameter. These branches also help protect the trunk from sunburn and mechanical injury.

It is important to make proper pruning cuts at the correct location and not use sealants on pruning wounds. You may want to hire a tree expert, such as a Certified Arborist, to help care for your trees. Visit www.aztrees.org to find Certified Arborists in your area.

