

Planting trees creates a canopy, or “umbrella” of leaves that helps provide shade and reduces the intensity of rainfall before it hits the ground. It is an easy, affordable way to help the environment.



CHOOSE YOUR TREE
CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLACE
PLANT YOUR TREE

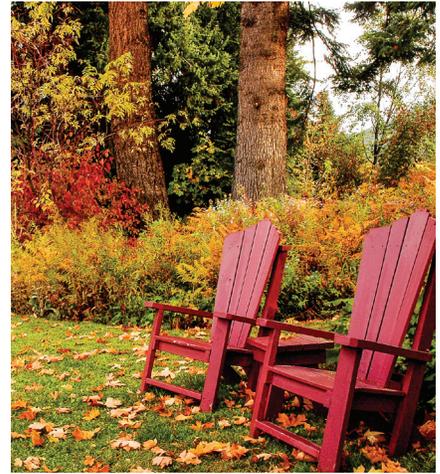
DIY TREE PLANTING

CHOOSE YOUR TREE

Things to consider when choosing your tree:

1. **Tree function.** Why are you planting the tree? What functions will it serve?

- **Evergreen trees** keep their leaves all year and are good for privacy, wind breaks and shading hot areas.
- **Deciduous trees** lose their leaves every year and provide shade in the summer while allowing for winter sun.
- A tree that produces **fruit can provide food** for you or wildlife.
- Trees can provide **visual interest** – flowers in the summer or spring, fall leaf color, beautiful winter bark.



2. **Form and size.** Selecting the right shape and size of tree reduces maintenance and increases your tree's value for the landscape.

- **Height.** Will the tree bump into anything when fully grown?
- **Canopy spread.** How wide will the tree grow?
- **Tree shape.** A columnar tree will grow in less space while round and v-shaped trees provide the most shade. Select a tree shape that complements what you would like the tree to do for your landscape.
- **Root space.** How close is your house foundation, sidewalk, or driveway? You can expect that roots will grow at least as wide as the canopy of the tree and will stay near the surface of the soil.



3. **Soil, sun and moisture conditions** of your site. Selecting a tree that will thrive in your site's conditions is the key to long-term tree survival and reduced maintenance.

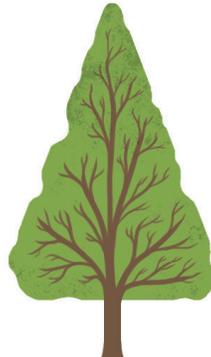
4. **Health.** Pick a healthy tree from the nursery with a strong central trunk, balanced shape, no signs of damage.



Vase



Oval



Pyramidal



Columnar



Round

CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLACE

Carefully selecting a location for your new tree helps ensure that it will be healthy and survive for years to come without excessive maintenance or causing trouble for your property's infrastructure.

Make sure you have enough room for the tree to grow.

Make sure you select a location with adequate room to grow - both below ground for roots and above ground for the crown. Consider the mature height, canopy spread, and root spread of your tree when thinking about a location.

- Plant your tree on private property, not in the right of way.
- **Avoid utilities.** Locate trees at least 10 feet from underground utilities and plant smaller trees (less than 25 feet when fully grown) under power lines.

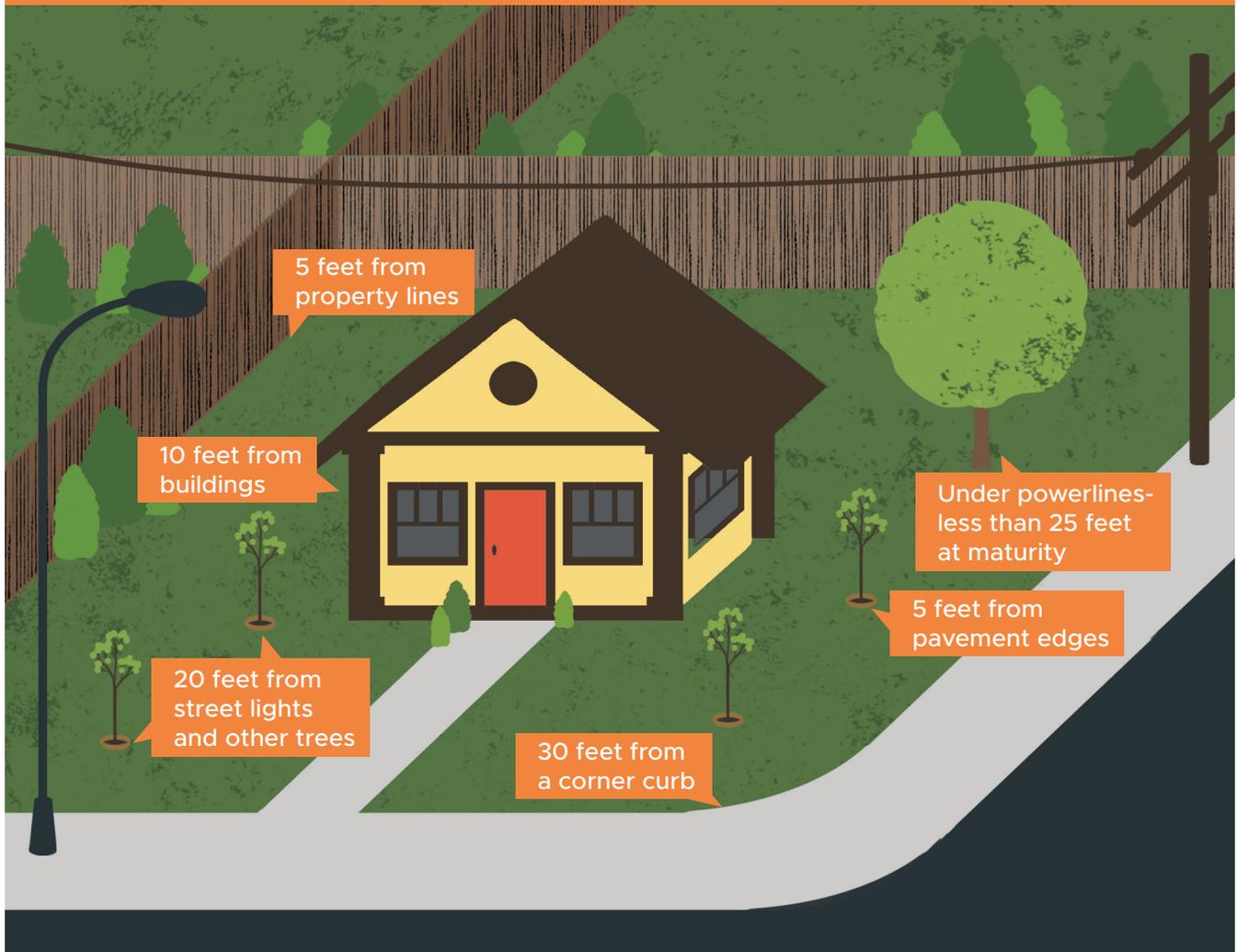
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TO REQUEST A FREE
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LAW.



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!

TREE SHOULD BE PLANTED AT LEAST:



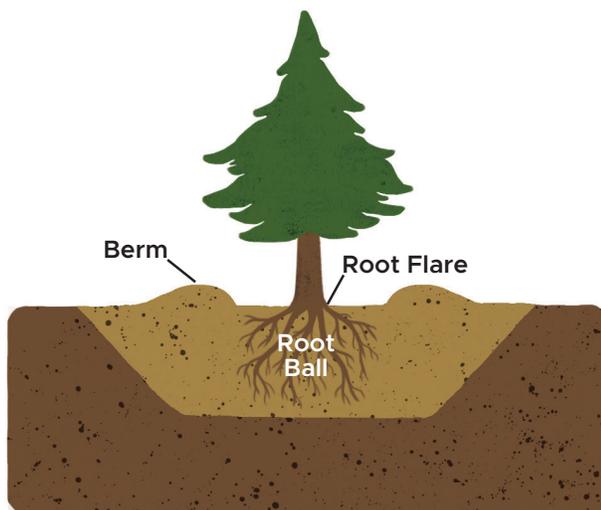
PLANT YOUR TREE

When to plant

- Trees and woody shrubs are ideally planted in the fall to support root establishment before the spring growing season
- Avoid planting in the summer or when the ground is frozen

STEPS:

1. **Clear the area.** Remove material (sod, weed, mulch) from planting area to expose soil.
2. **Dig a shallow, wide planting hole.** Measure the height of the root ball. Dig a hole that is as deep as the height of the root ball and 2-3 times the width.
3. **Remove the tree from its container.** Lay the tree on its side and push on the sides of the container to loosen the root ball from the sides of the container. Carefully remove the tree from the container keeping the soil around the roots intact. Don't yank the tree out of the container by the trunk as this can separate the roots from the tree.
4. **Locate the root flare.** Remove any excess soil piled on top of the root flare (or root collar) of your tree – the widened base of the main stem just above where the roots start.



5. **Massage the roots.** Massage the roots on all sides, including the bottom, so they are loose and ready to grow out horizontally. Straighten or remove circling roots. If the tree is really root bound and the roots are circling around the edges of the container, cut an X across the bottom of the root ball and then 4 vertical slices along the sides of the root ball with a sharp-edged trowel.
6. **Remove any nursery stakes or tags.** These will not help support your new tree and will only cause harm to your tree as it grows.
7. **Place tree in the hole.** Make sure the trunk is straight – have someone view the tree from several directions to confirm that it is straight. In the hole, the root flare of your tree should be visible just above the ground.
8. **Fill the hole.** Backfill around the root ball with original soil, breaking up any large chunks and gently packing the soil between roots. Use the remaining soil to create a berm (a low ring of dirt) outside the root ball perimeter.
9. **Water.** Water thoroughly right after planting to help remove air pockets.
10. **Mulch.** Spread 2-3" deep ring of mulch or arborist wood chips around the base of your tree, keeping it about a hands-width away from your new tree.



Kirkland Public Works -
Surface Water Division

www.kirklandwa.gov/stormwater



This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement O1J18101 to Washington Department of Ecology. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

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