



## **Strategic Planting, Planting for Benefits**

### **Where to plant**

Planting the right tree in the right place is essential if you wish to maximize the benefits trees provide and prevent future problems. Properly selecting your trees can help you save energy and reduce tree care costs, as well as prevent conflicts with buildings, foundations, sidewalks, driveways, and power lines.

### **Consider the size**

How tall and wide will a particular tree be at maturity? Plant tall, columnar trees in narrow, open spaces and small, rounder trees in wide spaces with overhead power lines. Plant large trees, such as many Pacific Northwest natives, in open spaces away from overhead utilities.

### **Plant for shade**

In terms of providing shade in the summer months, planting on the west side is most effective, followed by the east side. Patios, driveways and air conditioners also need shade; however, do not plant vegetation so close that it obstructs air flow around the air conditioning unit. To maximize summer shade and minimize winter shade, locate solar-friendly deciduous trees 10 to 20 feet south of the home.

### **Plant for warmth**

Where lot sizes are large enough, consider planting a windbreak. Locate rows of trees perpendicular to the primary wind about 25 to 50 feet from the building. Ideally, choose dense evergreen trees that will grow to twice the height of the building they shelter.

### **Roots, branches, and buildings don't mix**

Keep trees at least 5 to 10 feet away from the home, but within 30 to 50 feet to effectively shade windows and walls. Plant at least 2 feet from property lines, 5 feet from driveways and 10 feet from fences. Remember that trees need space for both branches and roots.

### **Deciduous versus evergreen**

Deciduous trees block the heat of the sun in the summer, yet allow it to strike your home in the winter. Evergreen trees provide shade all year round, including the winter when sunlight is scarce and desirable.

### **Water, soil, and sunlight requirements**

Be sure to match the tree to the environmental conditions of the site, including soil type, drainage, and shade. Select drought tolerant species for planting in areas that receive little irrigation (natives are a good choice). Match the tree's maintenance requirements to the appropriate landscape area, considering the amount of care you are willing to provide and the area's type and frequency of use.

Source: McPherson, et al. Western Washington and Oregon Community Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs and Strategic Planting. International Society of Arboriculture, 2002.

**See back for tree selection, planting, and care websites.**

# Tree Selection, Planting and Care Internet Resources

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry>  
City of Vancouver's Urban Forestry program

<http://www.treelink.org>  
Internet portal with links to nearly everything that matters in urban forestry

<http://www.arborday.org>  
National Arbor Day Foundation

<http://www.isa-arbor.com>  
International Society of Arboriculture, the professional standards and certification organization for arborists and urban foresters

<http://www.pnwisa.org>  
Pacific Northwest chapter of ISA

<http://www.friendsoftrees.org>  
Local non-profit tree planting group

[http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/5/cufr\\_164.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/5/cufr_164.pdf)  
"Western Washington and Oregon Community Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs and Strategic Planting" (Center for Urban Forest Research, U.S. Forest Service)

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants>  
Oregon State University site with photos and descriptions of landscape plants

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/forestry/trees/default.htm>  
Ohio Trees Index, with comprehensive descriptions of each species

<http://orb.at.ufl.edu/TREES/index.html>  
Choose "Tree Selector" from the menu for an online tree selection tool

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/trees/comlist.htm>  
U.S. Forest Service tree species fact sheets

<http://www.treesaregood.com>  
Consumer tree care site from International Society of Arboriculture

<http://www.tlcfortrees.info>  
General tree care site