

PLANTING & CARING FOR YOUR TREE!



Neighborhood Forest
giving trees to children

1. **Keep your tree in a cool shaded place** until you are ready to plant it - keep the roots moist!
2. **Give your tree room to grow!** Plant your tree at least 20 feet away from other trees, houses, overhead power lines, etc.
3. **Plant your tree strategically** based on your **species** to reduce energy usage and your utility bill.
4. **Dig a hole** for your tree larger and deeper than the size of your tree's soil plug. The soil plug should only be 1/2 inch deeper than the ground level.
5. **Protect your newly planted tree** from wildlife and lawnmowers by putting a fence around it.
6. **Water your newly planted tree regularly**, especially during dry periods. Put mulch around your tree to help retain moisture.
7. **Take a picture with your tree** and share it with us on our **Facebook** page! We love collecting "**Then and Now**" photos!
8. As your tree grows, carefully **prune broken or dead branches** if needed.



1. BEFORE PLANTING

- Keep your tree in a cool shaded place until you are ready to plant your tree.
- Keep your tree's roots moist all the time until you are ready to plant it. Dry roots cause the tree to die!
- We encourage you to plant your tree as soon as possible. If planting must be delayed a few days, keep your tree in a cool, shaded place with air circulation.

Q: My tree looks like a stick, is it still alive?

A: Some of our deciduous trees can look similar to a stick since they are still dormant but they are not dead! If the soil/roots are moist the tree is alive.



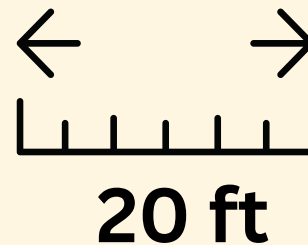
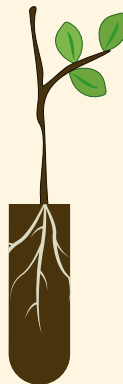
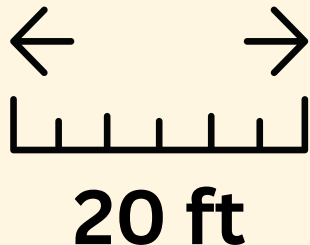
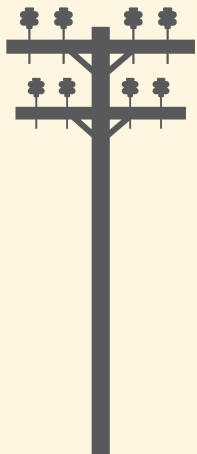
2. GIVE YOUR TREE ROOM TO GROW!

Where to plant:

- Be sure to give your tree lots of room to grow tall and spread its branches!
- Plant your tree at least 20 feet away from other trees, houses, overhead power lines, etc.
- Avoid underground electrical or pipe systems.
<https://call811.com/>



**Think about your
tree at maturity!**



> EVERGREEN TREE



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What kind of tree do you have?

Based on your species, you can plant your tree in a location that maximizes its benefits by reducing energy usage and lowering your utility bill! Check out our [Species Guide](#) to identify your tree.

Maximize Benefits

An evergreen tree has foliage that remains green and functional throughout the year.

Plant your evergreen tree on the North or Northwest side of your house to help protect your home from Winter wind.

By serving as a windbreak, your tree can help keep your home warm during the cold winter months and reduce your energy usage and utility bill!



> DECIDUOUS TREE



What kind of tree do you have?

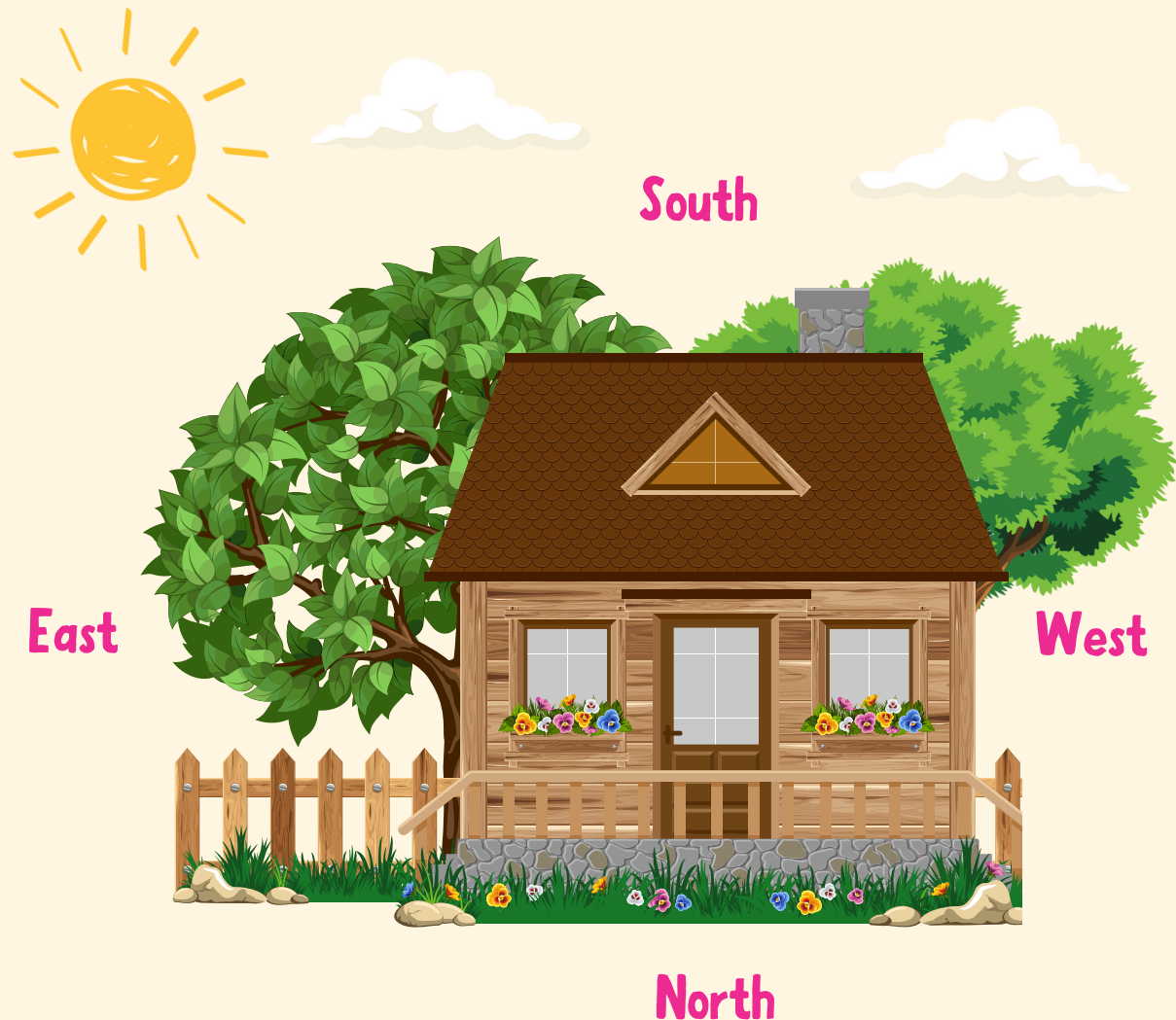
Based on your species, you can plant your tree in a location that maximizes its benefits by reducing energy usage and lowering your utility bill! Check out our [Species Guide](#) to identify your tree.

Maximize Benefits

A deciduous tree loses its leaves in the fall and regrows them in the spring.

Plant your deciduous tree on the east, south, or west sides of your home for maximum shade to cool your home in the Summer and to let sunlight through in the Winter!

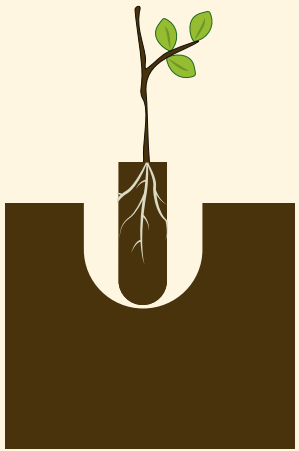
By shading your home in the Summer and letting sunlight / warmth in through the Winter, your tree can help reduce your utility usage and bill!



4. PLANTING YOUR TREE

Let's get our hands dirty!

- Make the hole larger and deeper than the size of your tree's soil plug.
- The soil plug should only be 1/2 inch deeper than the ground level.
- Crumble the soil so it's loose and press it firmly around the soil plug.



Too shallow



Too deep

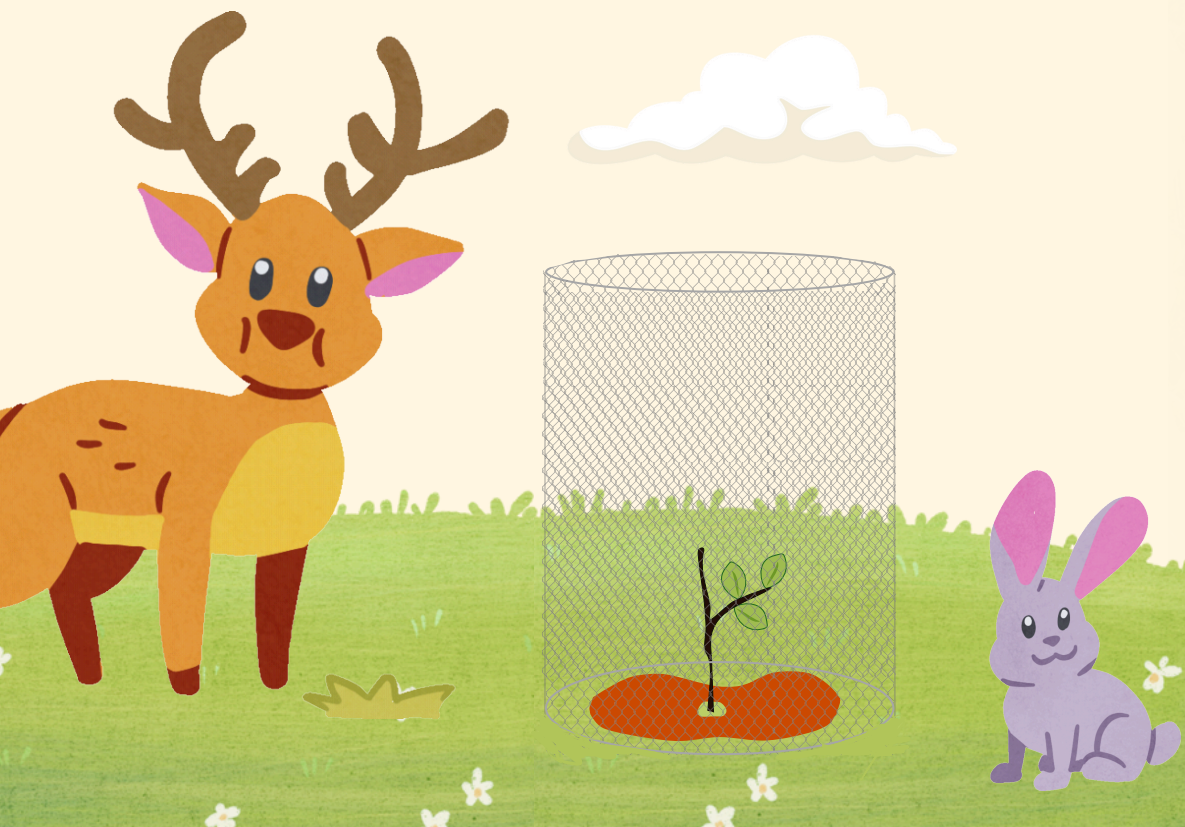


Correct Depth



5. PROTECT YOUR TREE WITH A FENCE!

- Add a small fence to protect your tree - otherwise wildlife may eat it as a snack or it might get accidentally run over with a lawn mower!
- Adding a fence significantly increases the survival and thriving of your tree!



6. WATER & MULCH

Water regularly!

- Water deeply and regularly, especially during dry periods. Deep watering is defined as 1 inch of water.
- To measure the amount of water applied to tree roots, use a small water sprinkler over the root area. Place an empty container within the zone where water falls. When the water reaches 1 inch, turn off the sprinkler.
- Mulch your tree's new home with wood chips or bark to help retain moisture and protect the roots.



7. SNAP A PICTURE WITH YOUR TREE!



Thank you for participating in Neighborhood Forest's 16th Annual Free Tree Giveaway!

Please take photos of your child(ren) planting their tree(s)! We love adding to our growing library of **"then and now"** photos!

Thank you for helping your child plant their tree and thank you for helping us grow the forest!



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8. TREE MAINTENANCE

Pruning your tree & long-term care

- As your tree grows each year, prune broken or dead branches. Trim away any secondary or competing “leaders,” but not the main leader!
 - Evergreen trees generally require little pruning, but you should remove dead or diseased branches as needed
- The best time to prune trees is when they are dormant and after the coldest part of winter.
- For long-term tree care, refer to the “Forest Health Web Resources List” at:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/caring-pruning.html>

