



# Edible Trees

## WHY WE DO IT:

Approximately 1 in 12 Canadians have experienced food insecurity<sup>1</sup>, or in other words, the lack of access to the variety or quantity of food needed due to lack of money. Sadly, this number includes 1.7 million children. The inability to access healthy and nutritious food is often reported alongside poor health, multiple chronic conditions, long-term physical and mental disabilities, and major depression.

By planting edible trees, those that produce fruits, nuts, seeds, berries and pods that suit human taste, we reconnect people back to their local food sources and build community.



**TreeCanada**

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada (2015). "Food Insecurity" <https://www.feedopportunity.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Stats-Can-Food-Insecurity-Report.pdf>

**WHAT WE DO:** Since 2012, Tree Canada and its sponsors have completed over **120 Edible Trees projects** and planted over **10,000 fruit and nut trees** in communities. In 2018 alone, Tree Canada planted nearly 2,000 fruit and nut-bearing trees and shrubs across **24 communities** improving access to healthy food.

Funding up to \$3,500 is available to eligible projects to cover the cost of purchasing and planting edible trees and shrubs, preparing the site, maintaining the trees, and developing community education materials

**WHO WE SUPPORT:** We support community-based projects throughout Canada, such as those with educational institutions, First Nations communities, municipalities, community groups or gardens, food banks and community housing.

**HOW DOES IT WORK:** The call for grant applications opens in October the year prior to project implementation and applications are accepted until the end of November of the same year. Once the application submission closes, Tree Canada evaluates all applications received and by March all applicants are informed of whether their project proposal has been successful in receiving a grant or not. In some cases, some projects may be put on a waiting list and may be contacted if a new funding opportunity arises. Granted projects are to be completed the following spring or fall.

**HOW WE OFFER SUPPORT:** Each year, grant recipients are invited to participate in a series of bilingual webinars to guide them in selecting appropriate tree species for their site and needs as well as maintenance tips. Each project is also assigned to an expert Tree Canada community adviser, who is available to provide guidance on the project.

**SPONSORSHIP REQUIREMENT:** We understand that it may be difficult to confirm details of celebration events and recognition activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing restrictions. Depending on future provincial and local health guidelines, we ask that recipients describe how they intend to promote their project and thank Tree Canada and the sponsor, should it become possible to hold events in the future. In your descriptions, please include details of the event and how the sponsor will be recognized.

**WHERE WE DO IT:** From community gardens in Victoria, BC to foraging walls in Charlottetown, PEI we are committed to providing the support and resources needed for planting edible trees and shrubs in communities across Canada.

## TREE CANADA IN ACTION:

### **BOREAL CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABILITY, MOBERLY LAKE, BC**

In 2018, Tree Canada and the Morberly Lake community planted four key wild, edible species at three accessible locations: an elementary school, a historic monument site and the Medicine Woman Creek restoration site. These trees now provide nutritious food to the community and encourage the importance of healthy eating.

### **CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN, CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI**

In 2018, the municipality of Charlottetown and Tree Canada planted 73 trees and shrubs to develop a foraging wall in a local park. Residents can now forage for fruits and herbs providing them with an alternative sustainable food source. The foraging wall teaches the community important skills like plant identification, gleaned practices and growing a successful harvest.

**ACAP SAINT JOHN, SAINT JOHN, NB** The 96 fruit trees planted in the Saint John community garden will provide food to the low-income households in the area. Any leftover food not harvested by the community will be brought to the local food bank to help even more residents within the community.

*Together we can  
bring healthy food  
to all Canadians.*

**Grow food and a community today.  
Visit [treecanada.ca/edibletrees](https://treecanada.ca/edibletrees)**



**Tree Canada is the only national non-profit organization dedicated to planting and nurturing trees in rural and urban environments. Through our programs, research and engagement efforts, we have helped restore tree cover in areas hit by natural disasters, guided communities in managing their urban forests, supported over 700 schoolyard greening projects and organized urban forest conferences. To date, with our community partners and sponsors, we have planted more than 83 million trees.**

**To get involved or make a donation, visit us at [TREECANADA.CA](https://treecanada.ca), follow and like us on social media @TREECANADA or send us an email at [info@treecanada.ca](mailto:info@treecanada.ca).**



**TreeCanada**