



# How to plant a tree

A guide to help you plant the right tree in the right place

1

**Tree Selection:** Would a coniferous or deciduous tree work better for your goals? Think about what the tree will look like at maturity. A tree's shape, height, size and its function in your landscape will determine the best tree to plant in a particular location.

2

**Species:** Tree Canada encourages planting native species appropriate to your local climate, light, soil and moisture conditions. Consult verified resources online or someone at a nursery or garden centre about native species in your region.

3

**Nearby Infrastructure:** Before digging, request underground utility locates to check for buried cables. Call your municipality for assistance. Avoid planting trees close to overhead utility lines, overhanging buildings or other mature trees. Trees should not be planted within 2 m of sidewalks, light posts or buildings.

4

**Time of Year:** Tree planting should happen in spring and fall. However, soil temperatures and water availability are the main factors that indicate whether it's a good time to plant trees. Consult a local expert for advice.

5

**Maintenance:** Don't forget to care for trees after planting! Trees can benefit from mulching, watering, staking and pruning.



Read our Tree Planting Guide  
[treecanada.ca/guide](https://treecanada.ca/guide)