

Benefits of Trees



A mature tree can have an appraised value between \$1,000 and \$10,000

Roadside trees reduce nearby indoor air pollution by more than **50%**.



Office workers with a view of trees report significantly less stress

Trees can stimulate economic development, attracting businesses and shoppers. Apartments rent more quickly, tenants stay longer, and space is more valuable to sell or rent.



Every \$ spent on planting & caring for a tree yields benefits that are 2X to 5X that investment

Visual exposure to trees has produced significant recovery from stress within **5 minutes**, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension.



Trees cool city streets by up to 10 degrees



Source: Arbor Day Foundation

Forest ReLeaf
OF MISSOURI

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Join the movement



What you do matters



Thank you for planting trees with us

TREE PLANTING GUIDE



www.moreleaf.org

Hello, Tree Planter!

You've taken the first step toward greening your community! Your tree is counting on you to ensure its long-term health, resiliency and survivability.

Click Before You Dig:

Contact Missouri811 at missouri-811.org at least 3 working days before you plant! (Yes, even in a park!)

Get Permission

Consult your municipality's forestry/ public works department or the property owner before planting.

Transporting

- Always cover trees to prevent windburn and leaf loss.
- Always carry trees by the pot (not the trunk) to prevent damage to the tree.
- Do not leave trees enclosed in a vehicle for extended periods of time (leaves need to breathe).
- Do not let trees dry out! Keep roots moist until planting.



Get to Know Your Tree

Trees grow to different sizes. Not all trees should be planted under or near utility lines. Read the tree tag to learn more about the species.



Planting Your Tree



1.

Dig a Hole

- The hole should be at least twice as wide and the same depth as the container.
- Lay your shovel across the hole. It should lay flat across the container and ground.
- **IMPORTANT:** Planting the tree too deep causes problems down the road. The root flare should always be above ground.



2.

Cut the Roots

- Once removed from the pot, if the roots look thick and like they are encircling the root ball tightly, make a few cuts with pruners or a spade to loosen them up.
- Gently loosen the soil around the roots with your hands.



3.

Fill the Hole

- Use the same soil you dug out of the hole to fill it back up.
- Lightly tamp the soil. Do not stomp the soil too tight as this removes necessary air pockets that the roots need to be healthy.



4.

Water the Tree

- Trees **MUST** be watered after planting.
- A long soaking with a hose is best.
- Give 5 gallons of water each week from April - October for 2-3 years.

Keeping Your Tree Healthy

5.



Correct

Incorrect



Mulch

- Mulching reduces weeds and grass, retains moisture, and protects from lawnmower damage.
- Using an organic, wood-based material is best. Avoid using plastic barriers, unless using a tree diaper or other watering bag.
- Mulch a ring about the size of the hole, no more than 3" deep.
- The mulch ring should look like a "donut" with the trunk growing in the middle.
- **AVOID** volcano mulching. Piling mulch against the trunk hurts the tree over time as it allows fungal growth to occur. This shortens the tree's life.

6.



Maintenance

Pruning

- Prune only dead/broken branches the first 3 years after the tree was planted.
- Additional pruning may stress the tree.
- Request a guide for pruning after 3-5 years established.
- For larger pruning, consult a professional.

Staking

- Stake trees only when necessary, such as in very windy areas.
- Remove all staking after one year.

Long Term Maintenance

- Visit your tree regularly to water, weed, mulch, prune, and check for problems.
- Be on the lookout for insects or diseases that may threaten your tree's survival.