

Tree Selection Considerations

The right tree adds beauty and value to your home and requires minimal maintenance. Before choosing a tree, consider whether you're planting it for shade, to attract wildlife, to screen a view, or to add color or flowers. Then, as you're looking at your options, consider:

Space

- How tall will the tree be at maturity?
- What is the shape of the tree: upright, rounded or spreading?

Placement

- Can the tree mature without crowding buildings and other plants?
- Will the roots uplift sidewalks or driveways or damage foundations?
- Will the tree block visibility in driveways or intersections?
- Are there any possible changes in future uses of the site?
- Will the tree overhang and conflict with a neighbor's property?

Growing conditions

- Can the tree tolerate local climate and soil conditions? Does it prefer shade or sun? A wet or dry spot?
- Is there enough soil area to give the tree the nutrients it needs?
- Is the tree strong enough to endure our typical winters?

Maintenance

- Is the tree susceptible to disease or insects?
- Will the tree require frequent spraying?
- If near a walkway, deck or patio, does the tree drop fruit or seeds?



City considerations

- Is the tree approved for street use?
- Are planting permits required?
- Does the city offer assistance in selecting an appropriate tree?

Utility considerations

- Can the tree mature without growing into overhead power lines?
- Are you making sure to plant the tree away from underground lines or transformer boxes? (Call 811 before you dig to check.)