

FALL TREE PLANTING FOR TOWNS AND SUMMER VILLAGES





There is a variety of sizes for potted trees and shrubs



Burlap and Basket tree requires additional equipment and care for transportation or planting.

Why plant in the fall?

During early Albertan spring in the soil is generally dry with minimal humidity in the air. In contrast, during the fall moisture is higher due to summer and fall rain. This moisture gives the trees a better chance to get established and growing earlier in the next spring.

Tree species selection

Tree species diversity is crucial for the health and wellbeing of your green space area. Try to be creative but also visit large city parks, an arboretum, or tree nurseries to see what trees and shrubs are growing in your surroundings.

Planting site

"The right tree on the right spot"

In order to know what trees or shrubs will successfully grow in a site you should consider:

- Soil, moisture, slope, compaction, sunlight, and drainage
- Physical barriers such as buildings, property lines, and town infrastructure
- Long term maintenance, pruning, watering, and overall safety

Planting stock

It's important to remember that caliper trees are much larger than small seedlings. They come in containers or baskets and burlaps.

Container stock trees

These are typically in black containers and come in a variety of sizes. Inspect the trees for any broken branches, irregularities, and signs of insects or disease. Most importantly check for the signs of a "bound root system" – this is when the roots become tangled and often circle the edges of the container. If there is damage simply don't buy.

Balled and burlap trees

These trees are usually larger caliper trees that are balled in a wire basket and wrapped in burlap. Always inspect tree health before purchasing.

What is a "caliper tree"?

A caliper tree is an older tree with a stem/trunk that is at least 4cm in diameter measured 15cm above ground level.

Planting

This is where most trees are killed before they even have a chance to grow. Proper planting is crucial.

Planting hole size and depth

Dig a hole that is as deep as the roots, but twice as wide, and plant so that roots are just below the surface. The wide hole will make it easier for the new roots to grow into the surrounding soil.

If you bought a plastic container stock, very carefully remove the soil by either shaking, soaking, or washing it with a hose to reveal the root system. For a basket and burlap tree, properly fit it into the hole, then remove the burlap and cut the wire on top before filling the hole with soil

Staking

Staking is when a stake is put into the ground, and material is wrapped around the tree to help stabilize the newly planted tree while it is growing. Staking is required in situations where the tree will be exposed to high winds or is tall and leggy. Don't forget that after a few years you will need to remove stakes!

Mulching

Mulch provides a few key functions including: preventing weeds, protecting roots from extreme heat, and keeping moisture around trees.

Watering

After planting a tree make sure that you provide enough water before freezing. The amount of water depends on the soil and the tree species' requirement for water. Don't let your tree get dry. If you can easily push a 6-inch screwdriver into the soil there is enough water. You can also use tree water bags for long term watering of trees and shrubs.

Fertilization

Fertilization during fall planting is not recommended or necessary unless if there is a nutrient deficiency in heavy clay soils. Fertilize trees and shrubs in heavy clay soil after leaves drop or on sandy soils in springtime.

Tips for mulching...

Create a donut-shaped wood chip cover around your tree - wood chips next to the trunk attracts rodents, insects and potential diseases.

Create a "donut" - not volcano shape - around trees with mulch as shown in the image below.



Wood mulch being used in group planting. This eliminates lawnmower and weed wacker damage to tree trunks.



The Propertree & Real
Estate Series is funded
by



ALBERTA
REAL ESTATE
FOUNDATION



Contact us

Agroforestry and Woodlot
Extension Society
17507 Fort Road
Edmonton, AB T5Y 6H3
Phone: 780-242-9855
Fax: 780-422-6096
Email: info@awes-ab.ca