

## Care for your tree

- Water trees during the first five years after planting if soil 4 inches down is dry.
- Apply, as needed, 2 to 4 gallons of water for each inch of caliper, twice a week. For example, give a 2-inch caliper tree 4 to 8 gallons twice weekly during the growing season. Water slowly until soil is moist to a depth of 12 inches.
- If tree is staked, check ties regularly to be sure the trunk is not damaged. Remove ties after one growing season or as soon as roots are well anchored.
- Most landscape trees do well with little or no fertilizer. Use only if symptoms, such as little growth, indicate a need. First, be sure symptoms are not due to other causes, such as tree is planted too deep or needs more frequent watering.
- If symptoms indicate a need, apply slow release fertilizer in spring, early summer or late fall and follow product directions. Don't fertilize a stressed tree.
- Do not use de-icing salt near tree roots or where it will drain into the root zone. Remember, roots spread far beyond the drip line.
- Perennials and shrubs may be planted along with the tree, but don't plant annuals or bulbs where repeated digging can damage shallow tree roots. Don't plant anything over roots of newly planted trees.
- Do not compact the soil or spread additional soil over tree roots or around the trunk.
- Keep lawn mowers and weed whips away from tree trunks to avoid damage. Mulch reduces the need for weeding near trees.
- Improve the health of your trees by maintaining a layer of mulch, 3 to 4 inches deep to the drip line and 6 inches away from the trunk. Fallen leaves may be left on the ground to serve as mulch.
- Contact a qualified arborist to prune large trees or provide special services. Hire only an ISA certified arborist who is insured and can provide references.

For more information:

Landscape Plants for Alaska: [www.alaskaplants.org](http://www.alaskaplants.org)

Trees are Good: [www.treesaregood.org/treecare/treecareinfo.aspx](http://www.treesaregood.org/treecare/treecareinfo.aspx)

Community Forestry (see publications and resources): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community>



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Community Forestry Program

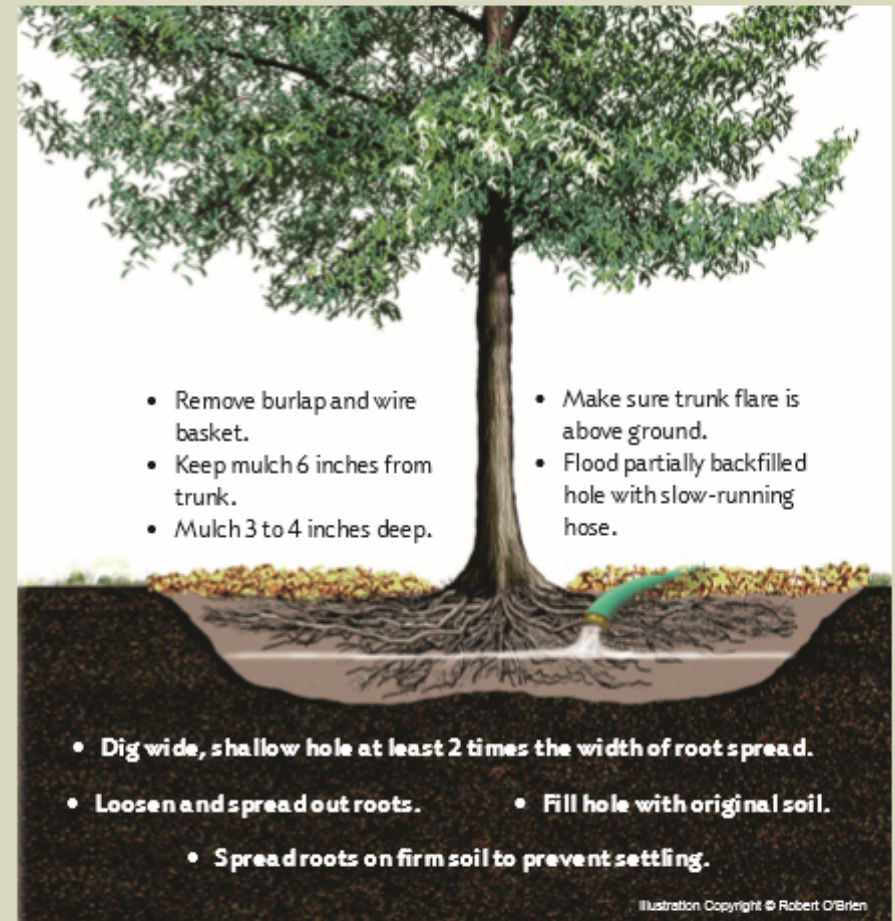
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# Plant a Tree



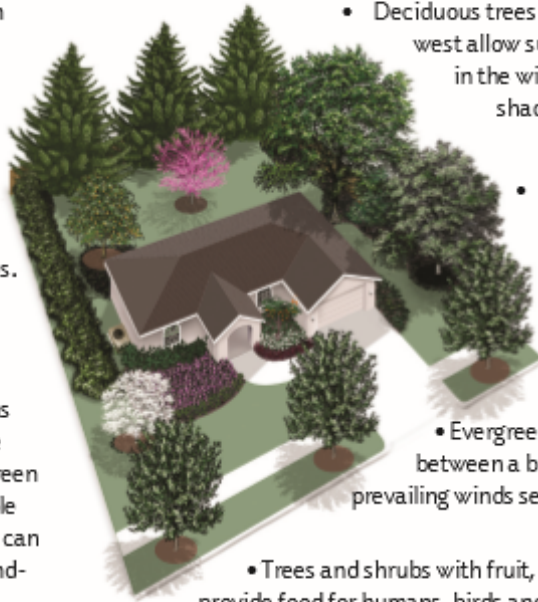
## Select the right place for your tree

Consider soil conditions, exposure to sun and wind, human activity, drainage, hardiness zone and space constraints. Most roots grow in the top 4 to 18 inches of soil and far beyond the drip line. How much space will your tree need above and below ground when it is mature?

Right tree, Right place, Right way

## Select the right place for your tree

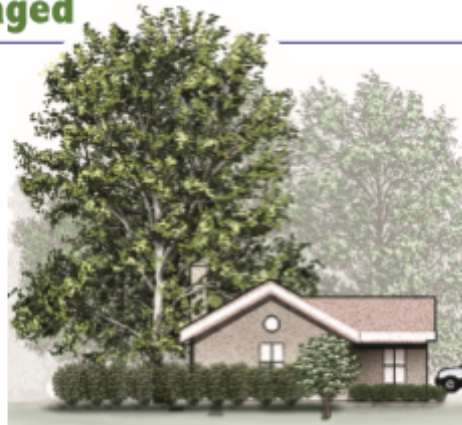
- Trees with spring flowers, fall color and attractive bark accent landscapes.
- Evergreens and dense shrubs screen undesirable views and can create wind-breaks.
- Deciduous trees on the south and west allow sunshine through in the winter and provide shade in the summer.
- Trees with large canopies intercept rain and snowfall and reduce runoff and erosion.
- Evergreen trees planted between a building and prevailing winds serve as a windbreak.
- Trees and shrubs with fruit, berries and seeds provide food for humans, birds and other animals.



## Avoid sites where your tree will cause problems or be damaged

### Don't:

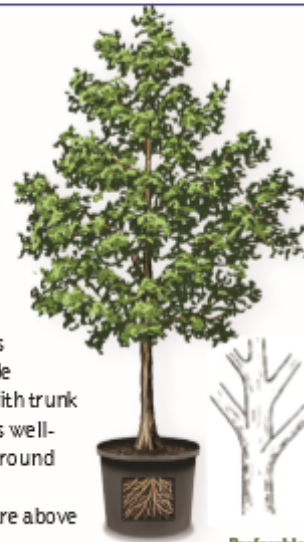
- Create shade where you want sunlight.
- Block desirable views.
- Plant where snow is stored or slides from roofs.
- Encroach on neighboring property.
- Interfere with utility lines, poles, and transformer boxes.
- Trees planted too close to buildings and chimneys drop debris on roofs and are fire hazards.
- Avoid blocking traffic signs and sightlines at intersections and driveways.



- Trees planted too close together can't achieve mature size and shape.
- Give trees space to reach mature size without damaging driveways, streets, sidewalks or trails.

## Good quality tree

- Branches form wide angles with trunk
- Branches well-spaced around trunk
- Trunk flare above soil
- Roots fill container but are not pot-bound
- No weeds



Preferable

## Poor quality tree

- Undersized yellow leaves
- Weeds in container
- Roots circle container or trunk
- Competing leaders
- V-shaped, or narrow angles between trunk and branches
- Trunk wounds



Unacceptable

## Plant it right

- Prepare a planting hole that encourages the roots to spread and grow into the surrounding soil.
- Before digging hole, remove all twine, tags and wrap from around the trunk and cut away and remove the container, wire basket and/or burlap.
- Remove vegetation and loosen soil in a saucer-shaped area at least two times the spread of the roots and no deeper than height from base of trunk flare to bottom of roots. The hole will be wide and shallow.
- Separate and spread the roots so that they will grow out into the surrounding soil. Prune roots that are diseased, damaged or circling the container or root ball.
- Set the tree in the hole on solid ground so that it does not settle. The trunk flare must be just above ground level.
- If soil is very poor or compacted, you may mix some topsoil with existing soil, creating a transition to surrounding soil.
- Use water to settle the soil as you backfill in 1/3 increments. Do not compact soil or damage roots by walking on wet soil.
- Stake only if needed to stabilize the roots.
- Use smooth, flexible material that allows some movement of trunk. Remove ties within one year.