How to Plant a Tree

Step 1: Dig the Hole

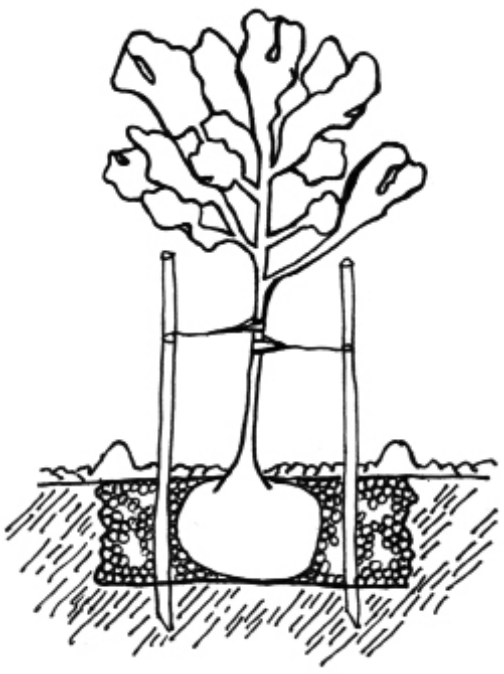
Dig the hole to the same depth as the rootball, and 2 to 3 times the width of the rootball. Rough up the sides of the hole.

Step 2: Plant the Tree

Container:
Remove the tree from the container. Straighten out or cut circling roots, and cut off girdling or damaged roots. Lower the tree into the hole, supporting the rootball. Check the depth: the crown should be at ground level or a bit higher to accomodate mulch.

Balled and Burlapped:
Place the tree in the hole, supporting the rootball. Check the depth (see Container directions). Remove all twine or wire tied at the trunk. Untie or cut the burlap at the trunk, and remove or fold down as much as possible without damaging the rootball.

Finally, backfill the hole with the original, unamended soil. Be sure all roots are covered. Lightly water to help settle the soil in place. Doublecheck that the top of the rootball is at or slightly above ground level. Build a low dam or berm around the tree to help hold water.



Step 3: Care after Planting

Mulching:
Apply 2-4 inches of mulch (compost, bark, chips, etc.) to the planting area. Don't let the mulch pile up against the trunk, as this can cause rot to occur. Mulching will help retain water, moderate the soil temperature, and aid in weed control, all of which improve the chances of tree survival.

Watering:
Trees need at least 5 gallons of water once a week during the first year after planting. Deep watering is best, as it will encourage deep root growth. Water as necessary after the first year, especially during times of drought.

Pruning:
Prune out only dead, damaged, weak, or wrongway branches following planting. DO NOT prune healthy branches out of the top to compensate for root loss; this is an old myth, and is not necessary. In following years, prune only to establish a good branch structure, permit visibility for safety, and to remove dead, damaged, or diseased wood.

Staking:
Trees will establish with stronger trunks and roots if allowed to grow unstaked. Stake only as needed for support, anchoring or protection for up to 1 year. Remove all stakes and ties at this time to prevent girdling of the tree.

	Scientific Name Common Name	Plant Type	Height/Width	Recomended Min. Spacing	Parking Strip Min. Width	Ok Under Wires	Wet Soils	Dry Soils	Sun	Pt. Sun	Shade	Characteristics; Remarks
	Acer campestre Hedge Maple	D	30'/30'	35'	5'	x	x	x	x	x		yellow fall leaf color; multistemmed
	Acer circinatum Vine Maple	D	20'/12'	20'	5'	x	x	x	x	x		red, orange, yellow fall leaf color; single or multitrunked
	Acer ginnala Amur Maple	D	20'/15'	20'	8'	x		x	x	x		red fall leaf color; single or multistemmed
	Acer griseum Paperbark Maple	D	25'/20'	20'	8'	x		x	x	x		peeling cinnamon bark; red fall color
*	Acer palmatum Japanese Maple	D	varies to 20'/20'	20'	8'	x	x		x	x		vary in form, size, and leaf color; nice fall leaf color
*	Acer platanoides Norway Maple	D	varies to 50'/25'	35'	8'		x	x	x	x	x	subject to aphids; vary in form, size, and leaf color
*	Acer rubrum Red Maple	D	varies to 60'/40"	20'	5'		x	x	x			showy small red flowers in spring; red fall leaf color
	Aesculus x carnea Red Horsechestnut	D	40'/30'	35'	8'		x		x			reddish-pink flowers in spring; yellow fall leaf color
	Amelanchier sp. Serviceberry	D	20'/15'	15'	8'	x	x	x	x	x	x	white spring flowers followed by edible fruit; fall leaf color
•	Arbutus unedo Strawberry Tree	B	12'/12'	15'	8'	x		x	x			white flowers together with red fruit in fall; peeling reddish bark
	Calocedrus decurrens Incense Cedar	C	75'/15'	20'	8'			x	x			fragrant glossy green foliage; reddish-brown bark
	Carpinus betulus (narrow forms) Narrow European Hornbeam	D	30'/15'	20'	5'	x			x	x	x	yellow fall leaf color; hop-like fruit
	Cercidiphyllum japonicum Katsura	D	35'/35'	35'	8'		x		x			yellow fall leaf color
•	Cornus alternifolia Pagoda Dogwood	D	20'/20'	20'	8'	x	x		x	x	x	horizontal branching habit
	Cornus 'Eddie's White Wonder' Eddie's White Wonder Dogwood	D	30'/20'	20'	8'	x			x			large white bracts surround flowers in spring; red fall leaf color
	Cornus kousa Kousa Dogwood	D	20'/20'	20'	8'	x			x	x		white bracts surround flowers in early summer; red fall leaf color
	Cornus mas Cornelian Cherry	D	20'/20'	20'	8'	x			x	x	x	small yellow flower clusters in winter, followed by red fruit
•	Cotinus sp. Smoketree	D	15'/15'	20'	8'	x			x			tufts of 'smoky' flowers in summer; yellow to red fall leaf color
	Crataegus x lavellei Lavalle Hawthorne	D	25'/20'	20'	5'	x		x	x			clusters of reddish-orange fruit hang on in winter
	Crataegus phaenopyrum Washington Thorn	D	25'/20'	20'	5'	x		x	x			orange to red fall leaf color; red fruit in winter
*	Cupressus arizonica Arizona Cypress	C	40'/20'	20'	8'			x	x			blue-gray to green foliage; interesting bark
•	Euonymus europaea European Spindle Tree	D	20'/15'	20'	5'	x			x	x		red leaf color in fall; pink fruit open to show bright orange seeds
*	Fagus sylvatica Beech	D	varies to 60'/25'	varies to 30'	8'				x	x	x	vary in form, size and leaf color; smooth grayish bark
	Fraxinus americana Autumn Applause, White Ash	D	50'/30'	30'	6'			x	x		x	seedless, exceptional purple fall color
	Fraxinus angustifolia 'Raywood' Raywood Ash	D	25'/25'	35'	8'			x	x			purplish- red fall leaf color
	Ginkgo biloba Ginkgo	D	50'/25'	25'	8'				x			plant male forms to avoid smelly fruit; yellow fall leaf color
•	Heptacodium miconioides Seven-son Flower	D	20'/15'	20'	8'	x			x	x		commonly multi-stemmed, fragrant clusters of white flowers, exfoliating bark
*	Koelreuteria paniculata Golden Rain Tree	D	30'/25'	30'	8'	x		x	x	x		yellow bloom in summer followed by rusty capsule-like fruit
*	Magnolia grandiflora Evergreen Magnolia	B	40'/30'	35'	12'		x					fragrant white flowers in summer; wants shelter from wind
*	Magnolia kobus Kobus Magnolia	D	30'/20'	25'	8'				x	x		white flowers in spring
*	Magnolia soulangiana Saucer Magnolia	D	25'/25'	35'	12'				x			spring flowers vary white, pink or purple depending on variety
*	Malus sp. Flowering Crabapple	D	25'/25'	25'	8'	x			x			disease resistant forms; flower color varies; colorful fall fruit
	Metasequoia glyptostroboides Dawn Redwood	C	90'/20'	25'	8'		x		x	x		deciduous leaves turn rusty-pink in fall
•	Myrica californica Pacific Wax Myrtle	B	15'/12'	20'	8'	x		x	x			glossy green leaves; small waxy purplish berries; tolerates wind
	Nyssa sylvatica Sour Gum	D	35'/20'	20'	5'		x	x	x	x		early red fall leaf color
	Oxydendron arboreum Sourwood	D	25'/15'	20'	5'	x			x	x		scarlet fall leaf color overlaps with creamy white clusters of flowers
	Parrotia persica Persian Ironwood	D	20'/15'	20'	8'	x		x	x			yellow/orange/red fall leaf color; peeling bark when older
	Pinus cembra Swiss Stone Pine	C	50'/20'	20'	8'				x			bluish-green needles; dense foliage
	Pinus contorta contorta Shore Pine	C	30'/25'	25'	8'				x	x		native tree; dark green needles
	Pinus thunbergii Japanese Black Pine	C	35'/25'	25'	8'				x			irregular branching; large white candles in winter
*	Prunus serrulata Flowering Cherry	D	25'/25'	30'	12'	x			x			white to pink blossoms in spring; yellow fall leaf color
*	Prunus x yedoensis Yoshino Flowering Cherry	D	35'/25'	35'	12'	x			x			light pink flowers in spring
*	Pyrus calleryana Flowering Pear	D	30'/20'	35'	8'				x	x		white flowers in early spring; reddish- orange fall leaf color
	Quercus garryana Garry Oak	D	60'/50'	60'	12'	x	x	x	x	x		large native shade tree; produces acorns; good for wildlife
	Quercus palustris Pin Oak	D	45'/30'	35'	12'				x			yellow to red fall leaf color good lawn tree
	Quercus robur 'Fastigiata' Upright English Oak	D	30'/15'	20'	5'				x			very narrow growth habit
	Quercus rubra Red Oak	D	50'/30'	40'	8'				x			red fall leaf color
*	Sorbus sp. Mountain Ash	D	varies to 25'/15'	20'	8'	x			x	x		white blooms in summer, followed by berries; attracts birds
	Stewartia sp. Stewartia	D	25'/20'	20'	8'	x	x		x	x		white bloom in summer; fall color orange/red/purple; colorful bark
	Styrax japonica Japanese Snowdrop Tree	D	20'/20'	25'	8'	x			x	x		white flowers in spring; horizontal branching
	Tilia cordata Littleleaf Linden	D	40'/30'	35'	5'				x	x		fragrant creamy flower clusters in summer

* Buy named varieties for desired growth habit, disease resistance, leaf, flower, or berry color.
• Often shrubby.
Plant Type: D = Deciduous; B = Broadleaf Evergreen; C = Conifer

Poulsbo Tree Board
Poulsbo Parks and Recreation
200 NE Moe Street
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Poulsbo Tree Planting Guide

The City of Poulsbo Tree Board consists of arborists, nursery and landscape professionals, elected officials, and citizens, all volunteering their time. They contribute to Poulsbo's attractiveness and vitality through proper tree management. Meetings are normally held monthly. Citizen participation from inside or outside of the city is welcomed. Call (360) 779-9898 for more information. Poulsbo is a Tree City USA award city since 1997, as recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Tree Planting Guide

Poulsbo, WA

Tree City USA award city since 1997

The Poulsbo Tree Board offers this guide to help citizens make informed decisions choosing and maintaining trees for public and private areas. The trees on this list are proven performers in our area, provided they are matched with appropriate site conditions. The planting and maintenance tips in this guide will help you keep your trees attractive and healthy with the least effort.

Poorly chosen or maintained trees can damage underground utilities, create personal hazards, or simply create a mess. One of the most common problems we pay for is the cost of cutting overgrown trees out of utility wires.

Trees which are well chosen and maintained provide practical benefits such as shade or protection from wind and weather. Trees soften the otherwise stark appearance of roads, buildings or towers. They offer the attraction of flowers, fruit, form or fall leaf color. They support wildlife. Trees contribute to the overall health of the community.

Use this guide to choose trees appropriate to your chosen site. This list provides excellent suggestions for a variety of cultural conditions and site locations. Evaluate the site, with consideration of the following:

- utility line placement: overhead or underground
- parking strip width, sidewalk or driveway access
- views
- traffic and security line of sight
- existing buildings or trees
- soil type, drainage
- light: sun, part sun, or shade
- wind or saltwater spray

Regional reference books and local nurseries can also offer additional information regarding specific tree questions.

The Tree Board appreciates the care you take to select trees and properly maintain them. We encourage you to plant trees. It's a lifetime investment.

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