



Frequently Asked Questions about Stormwater:

Tree Maintenance FAQs



What kind of tree should I choose to plant?

In Vermont the trees will have to be cold-hardy and native trees would be the best choice. The soils can affect trees also, for example a pine tree will grow poorly in heavy clay soil. Consult an arborist to determine the best type. You can also look around you or your neighbor's yard to determine which trees are thriving in your area.

What functions can trees have?

Some choose trees that flower in the spring for their beauty. The fall fruits produced can feed birds and other animals. You can also choose trees for sun shade or windbreaks. All trees provide oxygen, improve air quality, and preserve soil.

When should I maintain my trees?

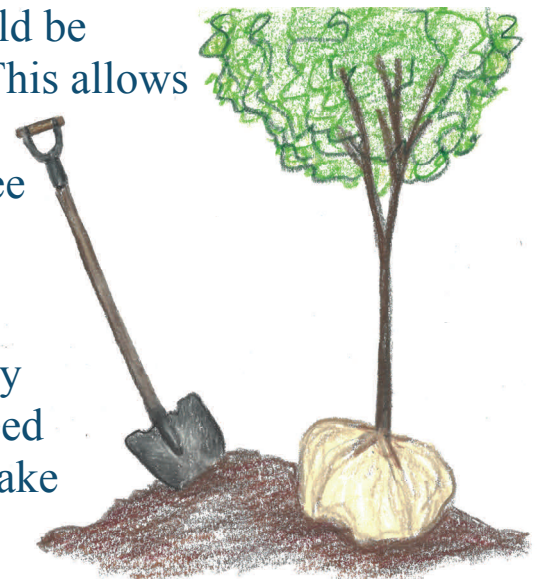
It is important to schedule tree maintenance during the non-breeding season for wildlife, this is usually September through February. This reduces the disturbance to nesting birds. Consult an arborist to determine if the tree maintenance or removal is absolutely necessary.

How big should the hole be to plant a tree?

It depends on the size of the tree. The depth should be approximately two-thirds of the tree's root ball. This allows for the top of the root ball to be above the surrounding soil. The width should be two to three times the diameter of the tree's root ball.

Do I need to stake the tree?

Not usually. If it is especially windy or the canopy of the tree is disproportionately large you may need to. Otherwise, the natural sway of the tree will make the tree's roots grow stronger and deeper.





Should I add fertilizer or compost when I am planting?

No fertilizer, this can damage the fine root hairs and therefore damage the tree. Compost is okay but not necessary unless the soil is very poor and needs amendments.

Should I water my trees?

Newly planted trees should be watered more than once a week for the first couple of weeks after planting. Then you can water once a week after that. Remember to check your soil to make sure you are not overwatering the tree. Keeping the soil consistently moist will keep the tree healthy and not allowing it to completely dry out or stay soggy. Water can be lost to evaporation during a summer afternoon; therefore, the best time is morning or evening to allow the roots to absorb most of the water before it is evaporated.

Should I mulch my tree?

Yes, but it is important to do it correctly. Mulching can increase how fast trees grow, reduce weeds, adds nutrients to soil, reduce water evaporation and soil erosion, and keep the trees roots at a consistent temperature. To get these benefits, do not create a “mulch volcano” that occurs when a thick layer of mulch is piled up against the base of the tree and covering the bark and root flare. This can in fact kill the tree. You can fix the mulch volcano by raking it down to 2-4 inches thick and ensuring that it is not making contact with the tree.

References

https://www.vtcng.com/special_publications/home/planting-trees-correctly/article_c9f359ba-4d6a-11e8-9e71-8364aca1c3dd.html

<https://www.kelloggsgarden.com/blog/lawn-care/tree-planting-faqs-whats-the-best-way-to-plant-a-tree/>

