

West Elgin Residential Tree Program

A partnership between the Municipality of West Elgin and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Best Management Practices for Tree Survival

Planting

Planting a tree is a great educational experience for your family. However, if you happen to be less mobile, or a senior talk to us and we can make sure your tree is planted with the upmost care.

Planting Methods

The best time to plant a tree is April through May or September through October. The tree should not be planted too deep or too shallow. This can cause stem rot. The root collar (where the stem turns to roots) should be at the finished surface. Good soil to root contact is important. Roots should be heeled for best contact. Watering immediately after planting is ideal to remove unwanted air space in the soil around the roots. Subsequent watering should only be done in really dry conditions to promote drought resilience and allow for roots to dive for water.

Things to consider:

Watch out for utility & service infrastructure – trees should have a good setback. 6 meters is recommended from overhead wires or drains.

Long term affect (shade, mature size)

Effect on slopes, bluffs, dikes

Uses (timber, syrup, biodiversity)

Your view

Property lines and road allowances

Mulch & grass competition

Pruning at the appropriate season to reduce disease transfer

Light fertilizer if desired

Do not over water!

Stem guards & staking

Lawnmowers

Tree performance (root to canopy ratio)

Soil structure/composition

Moisture regime

Tending

A healthy bucket of mulch sourced from your local leaf yard will help suppress weeds, retain moisture, and give your new tree a landscaped look. Mulching is a good tending habit and should be done a minimum of once per year. Grass is usually a trees worst enemy because it creates a thick sod that will absorb all the moisture in dry summer conditions. The main idea is to eliminate competition so the trees can develop at the maximum rate. After 3 to 4 years the trees should be well enough established to continue on their own. Tree guards or some form of protection around the bottom of the stem will

help resist rodent damage during winter months and may help deflect lawn maintenance machines from getting too close and damaging the stem.

Watering should not be necessary unless in extreme dry conditions. Carolinian species are well adapted to this climate and putting roots down to attain water. Over watering can result in "lazy" roots, or roots that are weak and under established.

For more information google [LTVCA Choosing the Right Tree](#) Guide or contact us!

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