

This bulletin is for information only and can change at any time.

Overview

The City of Vernon is dedicated to improving our urban forest through the **Tree Protection Bylaw** and **Tree Voucher Program**. The below tree planting and care information is for guidance only.

What benefit do trees provide?

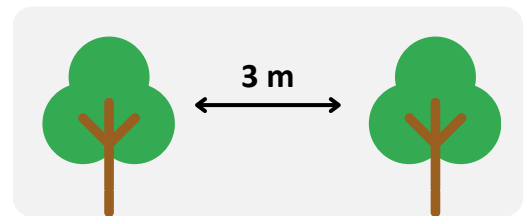
Trees provide a number of benefits to residents and neighborhoods alike. They can offer energy cost savings by providing shade, reduce noise and dust pollution on your property, and minimize the impacts of stormwater on flood events - all while enhancing the value of your property.

What tree should I plant?

Consider the below questions when determining what tree is right for you and your property:

How much space is available?

Consider if the mature size of the tree would be impacted by structures, overhead power lines, or other plants. Note that FireSmart guidelines generally recommend no planting within 1.5 meters of your home and a minimum spacing of 3 meters between trees for optimal fire separation.



What are the soil conditions?

Clay soil is best for trees that like having their roots wet, sandy soil is best for trees that like drier environments, and sandy loam is the optimal soil texture for most tree species.

How much annual maintenance is needed?

Some trees require more care and maintenance than others. Consider if you are prepared to regularly prune your tree or clean up fallen leaves as needed.

What existing vegetation is on the property?

Looking at your existing vegetation can help give an idea of what plant species are best suited to your property. When in doubt, connect with a local garden center to identify the best species for your property conditions and interests.

What kind of trees do you like?

Consider what's important to you and make a list. You may want a shade tree that can assist in reducing energy consumption, an ornamental tree that has vibrant fall colors, or a low water use tree that produces berries for birds. Make sure to pick a tree that fits your climate and environment.

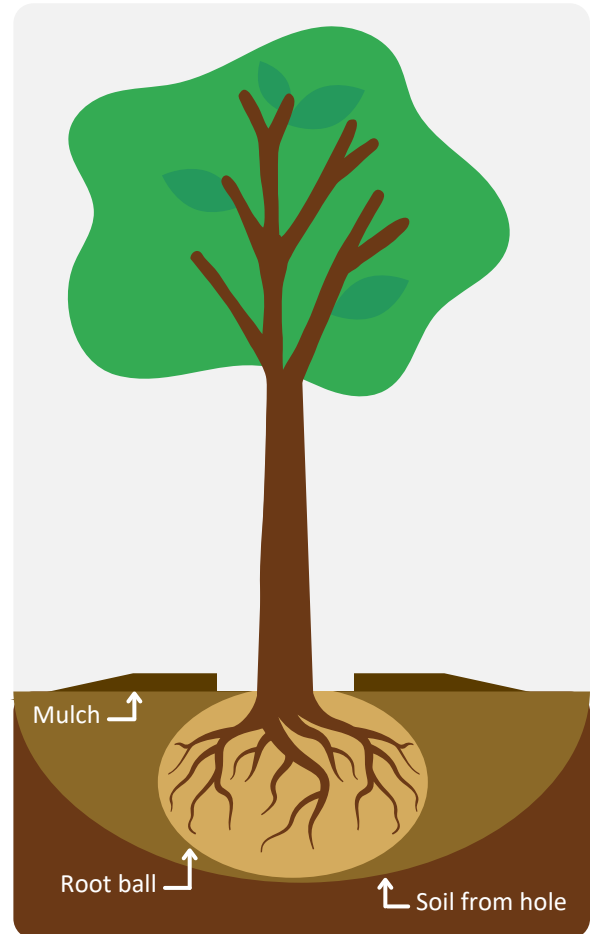
When should I plant my tree?

The best time to plant trees is typically in the fall or spring. Try to plant your tree shortly before leaves emerge in the spring or after leaves have fallen in the fall when the soil is warm. This allows the tree to focus its energy on growing roots and establishing itself instead of on growing leaves.

How should I plant my tree?

Follow the below steps to minimize stress on trees when planting:

1. Water the tree in the container. Then gently remove the container and loose the sides of the tree's root ball.
2. Dig a hole two to three times wider than the tree's root ball and deep enough that where the tree roots join the main trunk will be flush or slightly above ground level.
3. Plant the tree in an upright position holding the root ball rather than the trunk.
4. Fill the hole around the root ball two thirds full with the soil that was removed from the hole, then alternate watering, allowing the soil to drain, and filling the rest of the hole with soil.
5. Place a 5 cm deep layer of mulch around the tree. Leave a 5 cm wide circle around the base of the trunk free of mulch to reduce moist bark and prevent decay.



How should I maintain my tree?

Watering

Water the tree immediately after planting and then on a weekly basis depending on rainfall. Keep the soil moist but not soaked. Consider using a tree watering bag in the summer months.

Pruning


















Pruning can improve spacing and promote a strong structure for your tree. Remove dead or damaged branches at planting and then prune seasonally in the late fall or early spring.

Staking

Staking is not necessary unless the tree is exposed to high winds or in shallow soil. If you choose to install stakes, remove them after one year so the trees can strengthen on their own.

Do you have a list of recommended trees?

















The City generally recommends planting low water use or shade trees that are adapted to the sunny and dry climate seen in the Okanagan. This makes the trees easier to care for and reduces household water consumption. The below list may be used as a starting point in choosing the right tree for your property. Please reach out to your local garden center for further help in selecting the right tree for your needs.



















SMALL TREES		
Suitable for smaller spaces such as gardens or adjacent to overhead power lines. Many small trees resemble shrubs unless they are pruned to maintain a single trunk.		
Name	Characteristics	Growing Tips
Amur Maple <i>Acer ginnala</i> 	Mature Height: 4.5 - 6 m (15 - 20 ft) Mature Spread: 4.5 - 6 m (15 - 20 ft)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous tree with red leaves in the fall. Fast growth rate suited for small yards. Tolerates partial shade.
Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i> 	Mature Height: 7 - 10 m (23 - 32 ft) Mature Spread: 8 - 12 m (26 - 40 ft)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous tree with pale yellow leaves in the fall. Generally deer tolerant with flowers in the spring. Grows best in full sun.
Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i> 	Mature Height: 6 - 9 m (20 - 30 ft) Mature Spread: 6 - 9 m (20 - 30 ft)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous tree that produces white spring flowers. Colors in fall and produces fruit loved by birds. Grows best in full sun.
Japanese Lilac <i>Syringa reticulata</i> 	Mature Height: 6 - 10 m (20 - 32 ft) Mature Spread: 5 - 6 m (16 - 20 ft)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous tree that produces white spring flowers. Generally deer tolerant and attracts birds. Grows best in full sun.
Schubert Chokecherry <i>Prunus virginiana</i> 	Mature Height: 6 - 9 m (20 - 30 ft) Mature Spread: 4 - 6 m (13 - 20 ft)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous tree with purple leaves in the fall. Produces fruit loved by birds. Grows best in full sun.
Star Magnolia <i>Magnolia stellata</i> 	Mature Height: 5 - 6 m (16 - 20 ft) Mature Spread: 3 - 6 m (10 - 20 ft)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous trees that produces white spring flowers. Best suited away from paths due to low branches. Tolerates partial shade.
Toba Hawthorn <i>Crataegus spp.</i> 	Mature Height: 4.5 - 6 m (15 - 20 ft) Mature Spread: 4.5 - 6 m (15 - 20 ft)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous tree with yellow leaves in the fall. Twisted trunk creates interest as tree matures. Grows best in full sun.

 = Attracts Pollinators
  = FireSmart Recognized
  = Native to BC
  = Shade Tree
  = Water Use

MEDIUM TREES

Suitable larger spaces. It is generally recommended to avoid planting these trees within 10 meters of powerlines as they are sizable when at full height.

Name	Characteristics	Growing Tips
Black Gum <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> 	Mature Height: 9 - 15 m (30 - 50 ft) Mature Spread: 6 - 9 m (20 - 30 ft) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous tree with red leaves in the fall. Slow growth rate, produces fruit loved by birds. Tolerates partial shade.
Columnar Norway Maple <i>Acer platanoides</i> 	Mature Height: 9 - 12 m (30 - 40 ft) Mature Spread: 4.5 - 6 m (15 - 20 ft) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous tree with yellow leaves in the fall. Hardy and tolerant to pollution. Columnar nature suited for privacy screening. Tolerates partial shade.
Common Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> 	Mature Height: 12 - 15 m (40 - 50 ft) Mature Spread: 12 - 15 m (40 - 50 ft) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous tree that is drought tolerant. Low maintenance with interesting bark. Tolerates partial shade.
European Mountain Ash <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> 	Mature Height: 12 - 16 m (40 - 52 ft) Mature Spread: 4.5 - 7.5 m (15 - 25 ft) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous tree with purple leaves in the fall. Recommended to plant shrubs in understory to protect bark from burning in direct sun. Grows best in full sun.
Honeylocust <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> 	Mature Height: 9 - 12 m (30 - 40 ft) Mature Spread: 9 - 12 m (30 - 40 ft) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous tree that produces ample shade. Drought tolerant once established. Grows best in full sun.
Horse Chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> 	Mature Height: 12 - 15 m (40 - 50 ft) Mature Spread: 12 - 15 m (40 - 50 ft) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous tree with red flowers in the spring. Produces chestnuts with green cases in the fall. Grows best in full sun.
Golden Raintree <i>Carpinus betulus</i> 	Mature Height: 9 - 12 m (30 - 40 ft) Mature Spread: 9 - 12 m (30 - 40 ft) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous tree with yellow leaves in the fall. Fast growing with flowers in the early summer. Grows best in full sun.
Trembling Aspen <i>Populus tremuloides</i> 	Mature Height: 9 - 12 m (30 - 40 ft) Mature Spread: 6 m (20 ft) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous tree with yellow leaves in the fall. Fast growing with leaves that tremble in the wind. Tolerates partial shade.

LARGE TREES		Suitable for large planting sites with no overhead obstructions. Ensure there is ample space to accommodate these trees at full height and spread.
Name	Characteristics	Growing Tips
Ponderosa Pine <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> 	Mature Height: 15 - 24 m (50 - 80 ft) Mature Spread: 6 - 7.5 m (20 - 25 ft) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coniferous tree that smells pleasant on hot days. • Not FireSmart but thick bark reduces fire risk. • Grows best in full sun.
Maidenhair / Ginkgo <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> 	Mature Height: 15 - 24 m (50 - 80 ft) Mature Spread: 9 - 12 m (30 - 40 ft)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deciduous tree with yellow leaves in the fall. • Adaptive to many urban conditions and soils. • Tolerates partial shade.
Douglas Fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> 	Mature Height: 18 - 21 m (60 - 70 ft) Mature Spread: 9 - 10.5 m (30 - 35 ft) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coniferous tree that is fast growing and dense. • Low maintenance but size best for large lots. • Tolerates partial shade.
Tulip Tree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> 	Mature Height: 28 - 27 m (60 - 90 ft) Mature Spread: 9 - 15 m (30 - 50 ft) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deciduous tree with orange leaves in the fall. • Interesting leaf shape and seasonal flowers. • Grows best in full sun.
Burr Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> 	Mature Height: : 21 - 24 m (70 - 80 ft) Mature Spread: 21 - 24 m (70 - 80 ft)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deciduous tree that produces large acorns. • Good heat resistance and slow growth rate. • Grows best in full sun.
London Plane <i>Platanus acerifolia</i> 	Mature Height: : 21- 30 m (70 - 100 ft) Mature Spread: 19 - 24 m (65 - 80 ft)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deciduous tree with orange leaves in the fall. • Has mottled bark that adds winter interest. • Grows best in full sun.
European Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> 	Mature Height: : 15 - 18 m (50 - 60 ft) Mature Spread: 10 - 15 m (35 - 50 ft)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deciduous tree with orange leaves in the fall. • Has grey bark that adds winter interest. • Grows best in full sun.

Where can I learn more?

For more information about the [Tree Protection Bylaw](#) or [Tree Voucher Program](#), please contact Community Services Building staff at 250-550-3634 or csbreception@vernon.ca.

For additional planting guidance, please refer to the RDNO's [Waterwise Gardening & Irrigation Handbook](#), the [Okanagan Xeriscape Plant Database](#), or reach out to your local garden centre.

