

Tree Selection and Establishment

The following information will help you with decisions when adding trees to your yard.

Purpose:

Why are you purchasing the tree?

For shade, screening, flowering, fall color?



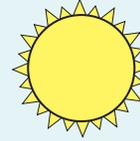
Site Considerations:

PLACEMENT

Make sure there is ample space for the tree and that it will not interfere with anything such as overhead wires when it matures.



SUNLIGHT



Trees are adaptable, but perform their best when planted in the proper exposure (full sun, partial sun, a.m. or p.m. shade).

DRAINAGE



Overwatering will kill new trees. Be conscious of irrigation systems. Get a soil test done at the local extension service. For info visit extension.missouri.edu/stcharles.

Tree-Purchasing Basics:

LOCALLY-GROWN TREES are usually grown in similar soil and climate. These can offer the best chance at survival in your yard.



CONTAINER

- Available year-round
- Be wary of pot-bound stock.
- Not grown in native soil.

or



BALLED/BURLAP

- Available year-round
- May be older stock.
- Make sure root ball is adequate for size of trunk (minimum of 10:1).

or



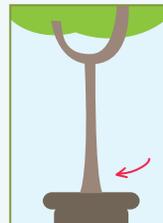
BARE ROOT

- Availability limited to late winter/spring.
- Not all species available.
- Lighter, easier to work with.
- Can see root system.
- Limited local vendors.



BRANCHING STRUCTURE

U-shaped or wide crotch angles are structurally superior to V-shaped or narrow crotch angles.



TRUNK FLARE

If you do not see a trunk flare, do not purchase the tree. Trees grown too deep or trunks covered with dirt will form adventitious roots as a survival mechanism. These do not perform as normal roots. Trunk tissue is designed to be above ground.



When Is the Best Time to Plant a Tree?

SPRING

Pros: Cool to moderate temperatures, adequate moisture
Cons: Carried over stock, time available, winter injury (How was stock over-wintered? Is there a leaf out guarantee?)



SUMMER

Pros: none
Cons: Picked over stock, warm to hot temperatures, maintenance requirements increase



FALL/WINTER

Pros: Cooler temps, adequate moisture, freshly dug stock
Cons: Cannot plant when ground is frozen

You're Ready to Purchase Your Tree!



Armed with the information above, visit growers and nurseries and get expert opinions on what varieties of trees will work in your situation. Compare guarantees as well as the costs.

When deciding whether to have the nursery plant the tree, keep in mind successfully planting the tree yourself requires proper care and patience and might void a guarantee on the plant. Be sure to ask.



www.stpetersmo.net