
General tips

Avoid non-native species such as Japanese lilac and Norway Maple (they provide poor habitat for native insects and birds, and are invasive) and overly common species like Honey Locust (too much of a good thing creates vulnerability).

Where there are overhead lines, consider a conifer and offset the tree as much as possible. Conifers are pointy on top and wider at the base, reducing conflict with wires. Conifers tend to have a compact rooting area, and can be placed closer to your home.

Get the right tree for you from a nursery with a good selection of native species, native seed sources (tree genetics matter a lot) and sapling size. Medium to small samplings suffer less from transplanting and will typically catch up to a bigger sibling within 5 years.



City of Ottawa program

The City of Ottawa encourages tree planting through a “Trees in Trust Program”. At no charge to the homeowner, City staff will plant a tree between the street and your home. You can request a tree even if you already have one on the street as it will eventually replace the older tree as it matures and dies. Request a tree through the City of Ottawa website, or write to 311@ottawa.ca. If the species you would like to plant is not offered at the time of your request, you can submit a special species request to the City for consideration.



Contact:

This brochure was prepared in May, 2019 by Daniel Buckles (ChamplainOaks.com) and Owen Clarkin. For details on 79 native trees adapted to urban spaces in eastern Ontario, go to Trees Canadensis: <http://treescanadensis.ca/> .

Planting Trees in Small Spaces

Options to consider when selecting the tree that is right for you.



Why Plant Trees?

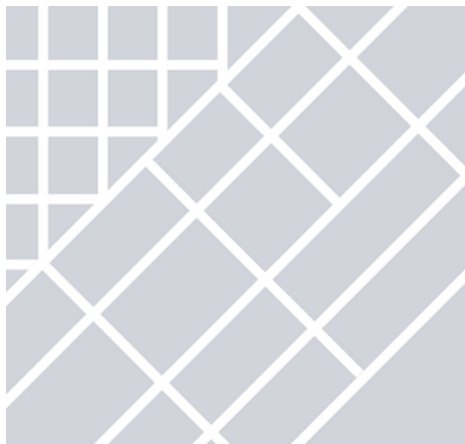
Street trees and yard trees are a vital part of residential neighbourhoods. They conserve energy by shading, provide a windbreak and filter storm water. Trees are also the most direct and cost effective means to remove carbon and pollutants from the air: a single mature tree can absorb 22 kilos of carbon a year, and make enough clean oxygen for 4 people to breathe. Trees near homes reduce human stress and provide shelter for birds, beneficial insects and small mammals. For all these reasons, and more, now is the time to plant a tree in your yard.

Site Assessment

Plan where the tree will go, considering the soil area available to the tree roots (needs vary by species);

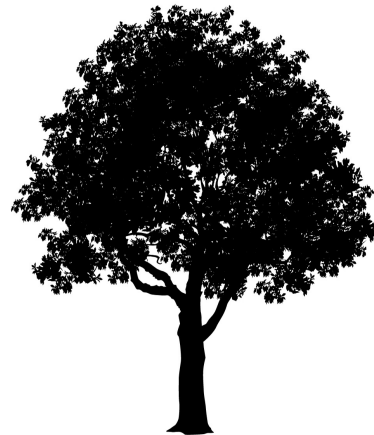
Determine where there are overhead or underground utilities and any obvious conflict with traffic safety (sightlines). While foundations in good repair are not vulnerable to tree roots, optimize the distance within the available space.

Consider what you love most about trees and what you want a tree to do in your yard (shade, be shapely, foster wildlife habitat).



Candidate Trees

We recommend all native species be planted to some degree as part of habitat restoration. However, some species may be less ideal for typical urban settings: e.g. our provincial tree White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) often becomes large quickly and can outgrow its allotted space. Owen Clarkin has prepared a list of 79 native trees suitable for eastern Ontario (for details, see *Trees Canadensis* : <http://treescanadensis.ca/>). All are used by Ontario's wildlife for food and cover and have a role in a healthy ecosystem. All are candidates for typical front and back yards.



Small trees:

Gray Birch (*Betula populifolia*). A hardy tree with whitish bark duller than the Paper Birch

Pin Cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*). Narrow crowned species, spring flowers, red fruit, reddish bark, shiny leaves. Hardy and adaptable.

Hop-Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*). A small to medium tree. Famously strong wood and relatively disease free.

Medium trees:

Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) Very hardy evergreen conifer with a broad crown.

Tamarack (*Larix laricina*). Deciduous conifer fairly common near Ottawa as a wild tree.



Already have a large tree in your yard? Every tree has a lifespan so plan now for tree succession. Consider a different native species, and plant it now so it can provide the next generation of shade and habitat. Big tree native species include: Shagbark Hickory, Bitternut Hickory, Pignut Hickory, Oak (all types), Black Maple (*Acer nigrum*).