

Tree Selection and Placement

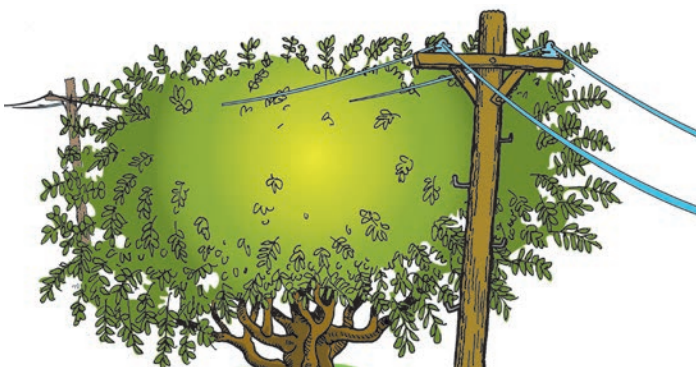
Understand the various factors to consider when selecting trees.



Tree selection and placement are important decisions a homeowner makes when landscaping or replacing a tree. Matching the tree to the site benefits both the tree and the homeowner.

Before asking, "What kind of tree should I plant?" consider the following:

- Why is it being planted and what function will it serve?
- What are the soil conditions?
- How will necessary maintenance be provided?
- What size tree is best suited for the location? How large will the tree be when full grown? Do overhead or below ground utilities prevent planting a tree? What clearance is needed for sidewalks, patios, or driveways?



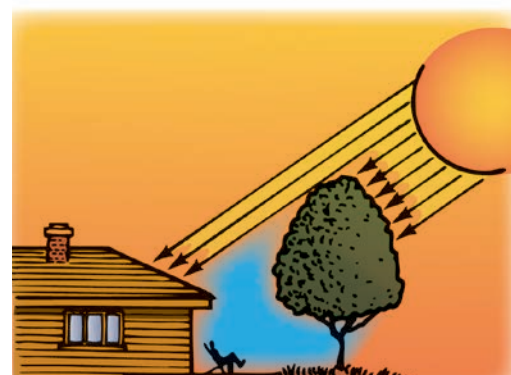
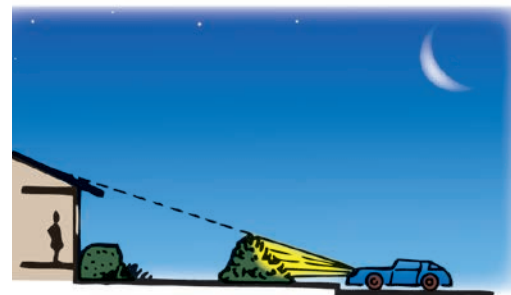
Form and Size

Selecting the right form (shape) to complement the desired function can reduce maintenance costs and increase the tree's value.

- Mature tree size determines the level of benefits received.
- Larger trees typically provide the greatest economic and environmental returns.
- Depending on the site restrictions, you can choose from hundreds of form and size combinations.
- Low spreading trees may be planted under overhead utility lines, while a tall evergreen may provide a screen.

Tree Functions

- Healthy trees increase property values.
- Deciduous shade trees cool homes in the summer and allow the winter sun to heat homes when they lose their leaves.
- Evergreens can provide a windbreak or a screen for privacy.
- Fruit trees or shrubs can provide food for owners or wildlife.
- Street trees reduce the glare from pavement, reduce runoff, filter pollutants, add oxygen, and improve overall appearance and quality of life.
- Trees also provide environmental benefits such reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.



Site Conditions

Choosing a tree for the right site conditions is the key to tree survival and reduced maintenance. Consider the following:

Soil conditions

- The soil in dense urban areas and new subdivisions is often disturbed, shallow, compacted, and subject to drought. An arborist can take soil samples from your yard for testing to determine which trees are suited for your property and may provide recommendations to improve the soil condition.

Exposure (sun and wind)

- The amount of available sunlight will affect tree and shrub selection. Wind exposure is also a consideration.

Space constraints

- Available planting space can be limited by many factors, such as overhead or underground utilities, pavement, buildings, visibility, or other trees. Ensure there's adequate room to let trees grow above and below ground.

Hardiness zone

- Hardiness is the tree's ability to survive extreme temperatures of a specific region. Research plants for their hardiness information in your region.

Human activity

- The top five causes of tree death result from things people do. Soil compaction, under-watering, overwatering, vandalism, and the number-one cause — planting the wrong tree — account for more tree deaths than all insect- and disease-related tree deaths combined.

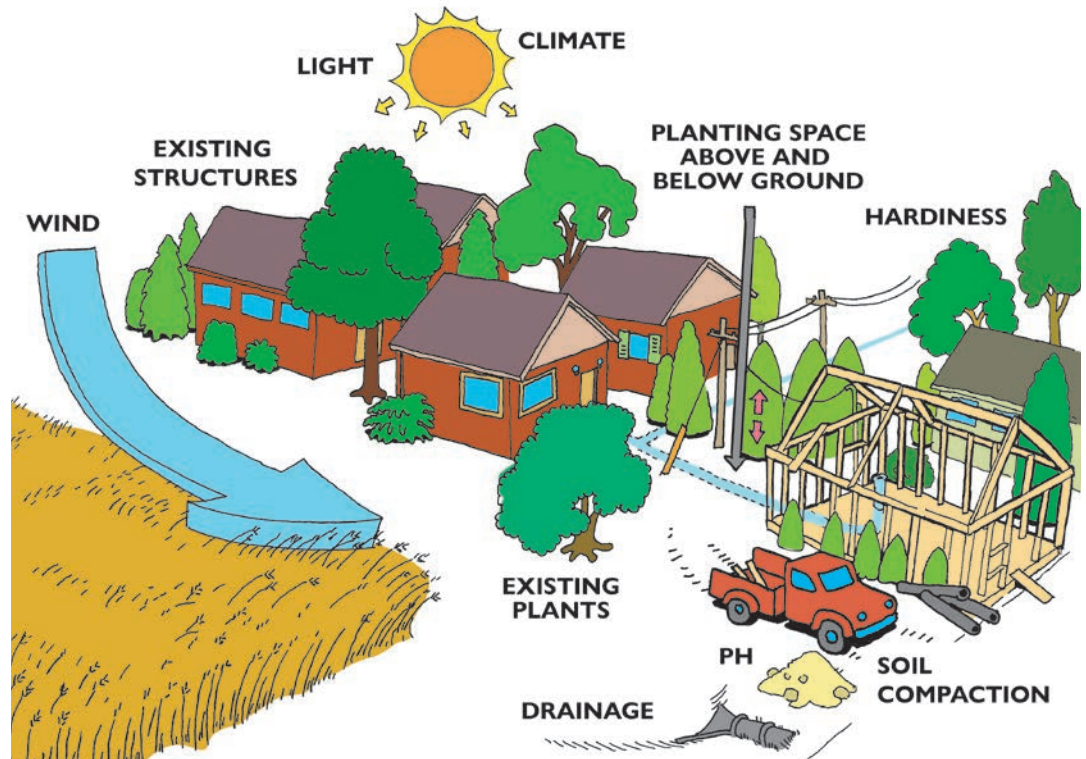
Drainage

- Roots require oxygen to develop; poor drainage limits oxygen availability and may kill the tree.

Insect and disease susceptibility

- Every plant has its particular pest and disease problems and the severity varies geographically.

Personal preferences and site constraints also play major roles in the selection process.



What Is a Certified Arborist?

ISA Certified Arborists® are individuals who have proven a level of knowledge in the art and science of tree care through experience and by passing a comprehensive examination developed by some of the nation's leading experts on tree care. ISA Certified Arborists must also continue their education to maintain their certification. Therefore, they are more likely to be up to date on the latest techniques in arboriculture.

Finding an Arborist

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- The "Find an Arborist" tool can help you locate an arborist in your area.
- The "Verify a Credential" tool enables you to confirm whether an arborist has an ISA credential.



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