

We Need Trees in Morrisville

Tree coverage in our area is rapidly diminishing. If we do nothing, **it is estimated that Morrisville will lose much of its tree canopy in 10 years**, a treasure that makes us unique. The best way to increase our tree population is for homeowners to plant young trees in their own yards now.

Plant a tree for the environment, to remember a loved one, to mark a special occasion, or to beautify your property. Share the experience with a child. The Morrisville Environmental Advisory Council is working to identify appropriate planting sites in our public spaces, too. Not only will we benefit now, but our community will be rewarded for years to come.

Other Sources of Information

<http://www.treevitalize.net/>
<http://arborday.org/>
<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/>
<http://www.cas.psu.edu/>
(Penn State College of Agricultural Science)



For more information,
contact the Morrisville
Environmental
Advisory Council
215-295-8181
(Morrisville
Borough Hall)



Morrisville Borough

35 Union Street Morrisville, PA 19067

www.morrisville-boro-gov.com

215-295-8181

Homeowner's Tree Planting Guide

The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago,
the next best time is now.



Someone's sitting in the shade today because
someone planted a tree a long time ago.

Do You Know the Many Benefits of Trees?

The National Arbor Day Association estimates that **trees can increase the value of a home by as much as 15%**. Did you know a large shade tree can save as much as 35% off your home heating and cooling costs? Trees clean our air and protect our water. Trees also provide food and shelter for birds and other wildlife.



How Do I Select the Right Tree for My Home?

1) Think about what you want.

- Do you want a small ornamental tree or a large shade tree? Does it flower? Does it drop fruit, nuts or pods? Are you looking for fall color?

2) Consider the site conditions.

- Is the site sunny, or shady? Wet, or dry? Choose a species of tree that naturally thrives on the conditions of your site. A **list of recommended native species** is available from the Morrisville Environmental Advisory Council.

3) What will your tree look like in 20 years? Avoid future obstacles.

- Is the site too close to overhead wires, sewer lines, sidewalks, or your house? Avoid future problems by planting away from these obstacles now. Allow plenty of room for your tree to grow and mature.

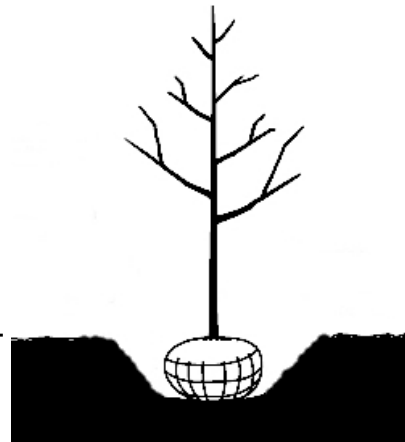
The key is to **plant the right tree in the right place**. By selecting a tree species that is suited to your conditions and placing it wisely, you will be rewarded with a beautiful, low maintenance asset to your property, both now and for many years to come.

What are the Best Trees to Plant?

- **Native species are best** adapted to conditions in the area, so they have a better chance of survival.
- Avoid trees with weak wood like Bradford Pear, Siberian Elm, non-native Poplar or Silver Maple.
- Avoid destructive, invasive trees like Norway Maple, Tree of Heaven, Russian Olive or Callery Pear.

How Do I Properly Plant My New Tree?

- Find the “root flair.” Look at trees in the woods and you will notice a flair to the trunk where it meets the ground. This is the root flair. The root flair must be exposed to the air and not buried. Container trees generally have an exposed root flair, but with balled and burlapped trees you may need to scrape away soil from the top of the root ball.



- Dig the hole as deep as the root ball and 2-3 times the width of the root ball.
- Level the top of the root ball with the existing terrain.
- Position the tree in the hole making sure it is straight. Then remove all twine from around the trunk.
- Remove as much of the wire as possible and roll the burlap away from the root ball to the bottom of the hole.
- Do not fertilize the first year.
- Fall is the best time for planting, but spring is OK too.
- Make sure roots of containerized trees are loosened.

What About Proper Watering?

Be sure your tree receives adequate water.

- Water your tree deeply immediately after planting.
- Deep weekly watering is better than frequent shallow watering. Your young tree should receive an inch of rain a week, or about 10 gallons if hand watering, each week.
- For the first 3 years, water weekly during dry weather.

What About Mulching?

An organic mulch layer around your tree will:

- Protect the trunk from lawnmowers and string trimmers.
- Help to regulate the temperature and keep the soil moist longer.

Do NOT form “Mulch Volcanoes” against the trunk. The extra moisture can cause the trunk bark to rot and provides mice and voles with a place to overwinter with nice moist bark to chew.

