

Our urban forest includes all trees – from a single maple in a planter, to carefully tended pines in a residential yard, to islands of native forest amidst urban development.

Their natural diversity and interconnectedness with human activities and the built environment make urban forests both complex and dynamic.

Trees in the municipality offer a wide array of benefits. They contribute to improved air quality, stormwater reduction, temperature management, and so much more. To learn more about our urban forest, visit halifax.ca/trees.

Here are the basics for planting a young tree on your property and helping it thrive:



Benefits of a Healthy Urban Forest

- Filtering air pollution
- Reducing stormwater runoff
- Removing atmospheric carbon
- Providing habitat for migratory birds and urban wildlife
- Improving physical and psychological wellbeing
- Providing a visual screen and reducing noise pollution
- Can contribute to food security
- Contributes to energy savings by providing shade in the summer and blocking wind in the winter

Tree Planting Guide

Contributing to the health of our urban forest

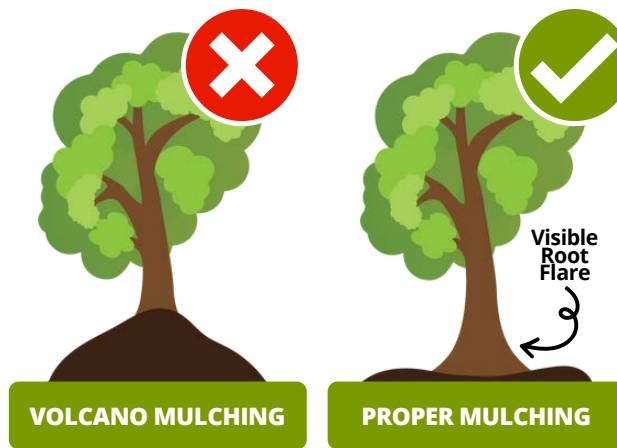


Choose A Planting Location

- Ensure you have a suitable planting location that provides enough room to support mature tree growth for the species you've selected.
- Keep future sightline issues or utility conflicts in mind when choosing a location.
- Planting in the backyard of the property is preferred as there is less chance of conflicting with utility upgrades in the future. However, front yard planting is permitted where other options do not exist. Planting on the municipal right of way/boulevard is not permitted as per HRM Bylaw T-600 halifax.ca/city-hall/legislation-by-laws/by-law-t-600.
- If you know of a planting location available on municipal property, please contact **311**.
- If planting at a community garden or other community space, please ensure the location has been approved prior to planting.
- Once you have your tree at home, please water your tree immediately and plant as soon as possible. Containerized trees will dry out quickly and getting them planted will ensure successful establishment of tree roots.

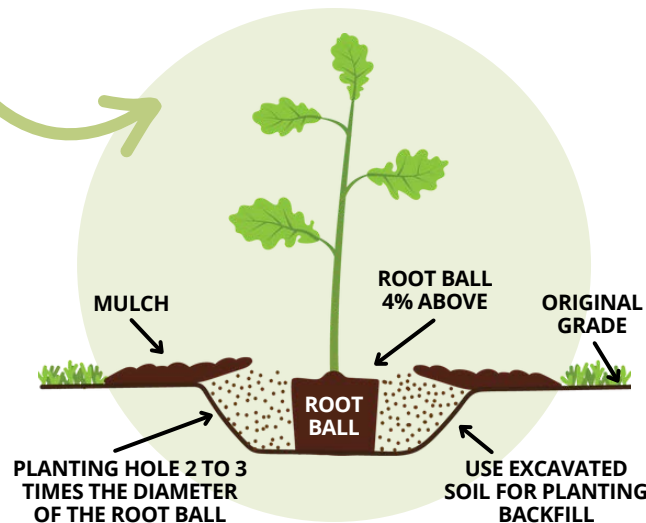
Planting your tree

- Dig the planting hole two to three times the diameter of the tree's container, but not deeper than the root ball of the tree.
- Once the planting hole has been dug, loosen the soil on the sides and bottom of the planting hole.
- Center the tree in the planting hole and ensure the crown of the root ball is just above grade as the tree will settle over time.
- Set the tree straight and hold in position. Backfill the hole to half the depth and tamp lightly.
- Proceed to fill the hole with topsoil to grade and tamp lightly around the roots.



Mulching

- Maintain a tree well around the tree (the area that was disturbed for planting) by placing 5–10 cm of bark mulch to cover the planting hole. Make sure there is no mulch against the base of the tree.
- Installing a 5–10 cm layer of mulch around the base of your tree provides a number of benefits including:
 - the retention of moisture in the soil
 - insulation for tree roots, which buffers against temperature fluctuations
 - keeps weeds and grass away, reducing competition for water and soil nutrients
 - keeps lawn mowers and string trimmers away, which can prevent damage to the main stem



Staking

- Consider staking the tree if it seems unstable or if the location is exposed to wind conditions.
- The material that attaches the tree to the stake must be broad and flexible.
- Please remove the stake after two years as the tree roots will be established and the tree will be stabilized by that time.

Watering

- Trees need water to survive but too much can be harmful.
- Water your tree as soon as it is planted.
- Continue to water your tree once a week until the ground freezes (typically late October in the Halifax region).
- Trees prefer lighter watering (using a drip irrigation hose, for example) as opposed to frequent deep soakings.
- Between June and August, water your tree once a week for the first year after planting.



HALIFAX FOOD
POLICY ALLIANCE

JustFOOD Action Plan

By planting, caring for, and harvesting fruit trees you will be contributing to food security within the Halifax Regional Municipality and supporting the JustFOOD Action Plan. The JustFOOD Action Plan is co-led by the Halifax Regional Municipality and the Halifax Food Policy Alliance. Together, they form the backbone to support the collaborations and collective efforts needed to increase dignified access to good food and strengthen our local food system. To learn more, visit justfoodhalifax.ca.