



LEAF IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION dedicated to protecting and improving our urban forest. Since 1996 we have planted over 13,000 native trees and shrubs in residential backyards. LEAF's Cool Communities project is supported by the Ontario Power Authority's Conservation Fund, which funds new and innovative electricity conservation projects.

get involved!

Planting trees and shrubs is one of many great ways to help the environment. Local organizations and municipalities offer a variety of programs and opportunities to help create a greener city. Check out the in-store display for brochures on more ways to get involved in your community or visit www.yourleaf.org/CoolCommunities.

more cool ways to save:

Get on board with the Every Kilowatt Counts for more rebates that help you save money and the environment! For programs in your area, visit www.everykilowattcounts.ca.

why plant native species?

Trees, shrubs and plants that grew here before European colonization are known as native species. By planting native species, you are ensuring that your yard will not only have healthy trees and shrubs, but ones that will thrive in Southern Ontario's climate and soils. Native species also provide the best habitat and food for songbirds and butterflies.



HOW TO PLANT AND CARE FOR YOUR TREE

conserve energy
help the environment
save money

COOL communities

RESIDENTIAL SHADE TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

416.413.9244 | www.yourleaf.org



For more information about planting and caring for trees and shrubs visit: www.yourleaf.org
For more energy saving tips and rebates visit: www.everykilowattcounts.ca



A joint collaboration



OPA and Ontario Power Authority are each official marks of the Ontario Power Authority.

did you know?

TREES CONSERVE ENERGY AND SAVE YOU MONEY!

Planting trees around your home can reduce heating and cooling needs significantly. In the summer, shade trees planted on the west and south sides of your home can reduce cooling costs by 25-40% and reduce peak energy demand by up to 30%, according to a study by the University of California Berkeley. Evergreen trees planted for windbreak purposes on the north side of your property can save you 6-11% on winter heating energy needs. Shading your air conditioning unit with shrubs allows it to run more efficiently, saving you even more!

what is peak energy demand?

PEAK ENERGY DEMAND is the time of day and time of year when energy consumption sharply increases. In Ontario, energy demand tends to peak in summer afternoons when air conditioners are working hard to keep us cool. This will increase in the event of rising summer temperatures. If peak energy demands exceed production and delivery capacity, this can result in blackouts or brownouts.

Where to plant trees for energy conservation



HELPFUL HINTS

- Make sure your tree is appropriate for your light and soil conditions. Refer to LEAF's species selection guide for further information.
- Consult with your neighbours if you are planning to plant a tree that may eventually reach into their yard.
- Never plant a tree in a raised bed or container as roots will be restricted.
- Make sure you call your local utility companies before digging.
- Ensure your tree has room to grow! Tree roots need both oxygen and access to water so make sure the area around a tree is free of pavement, gravel, interlocking brick or other hard surfaces.

other spacing considerations ENSURE YOUR TREE IS PLACED:

at least 2m away from paved surfaces or buildings without foundations • at least 3m from buildings with foundations for large trees; 1m for shrubs • at least 1m away from fences and property lines • 3m from hydrants, 1.2m from driveway edges, 4m from light poles, 1.5m from hydro boxes, 18m from stop signs • at least 8m between large-growing trees • at least 2m between small-growing trees

For a printable checklist, visit www.yourleaf.org/CoolCommunities

How to plant your tree or shrub

1. Hole should be two to three times as wide as the pot, and the same depth. Rough up sides of hole with shovel.
2. Remove all tags and ties. Remove the plastic or peat pot. Gently loosen outer roots to encourage growth.
3. Plant in ground so top of root ball is at same level as it was in the pot. Carefully break up soil chunks. Refill hole with original soil. Tamp lightly to remove air pockets. Do not stomp on soil to compact it. Do not bury base of trunk as this can cause rot.
4. Apply natural soil amendments such as compost in a 2cm layer on the soil surface.
5. Add a layer of mulch (woodchips, leaves or similar organic material) approximately 8cm thick and as far out as possible. Form a shallow donut shape around base. Avoid putting mulch against stem as this can cause rot.
6. Water slowly and deeply after planting. Use a hose with no nozzle on a very slow trickle for 10 to 15 minutes. A soaker hose also does an excellent job. Soil underneath mulch should always feel cool and slightly damp to the touch. Check soil moisture twice weekly for the first two years after planting.



TREE CARE TIPS

- Water using a soaker hose placed on the mulch below the tree for one hour twice per week; or water using a hose without a nozzle on a very slow trickle for 15 minutes twice per week.
- If soil is sopping wet after watering, reduce watering time.
- Never have standing water under a tree.
- Mulch should be replenished at least once per year.
- Stake only if necessary, not by default. Trees are naturally strengthened when they move in the wind, and staking prevents this from happening.
- Staking may be necessary if:
 - The location is very windy.
 - There aren't enough roots to stabilize the new tree.
- A tree needs to adjust to its new location for at least two to three years before being pruned.
- After five years a tree should be pruned to achieve proper form and minimize future problems. This should be done by a professional arborist.
- Pruning is not an effective way of trying to keep a large-growing tree small.
- Remove all stakes and ties after one year to avoid girdling.

WELL TENDED TREE

POORLY TENDED TREE

