

LEAF Minimum Spacing Requirements for Shrubs, Small Trees and Medium/Large Trees:

Site Conditions	Shrubs	Small Trees	Medium/Large Trees	Reasons Why
Area of soft ground space	5' x 5'	10' x 10'	15' x 15'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure adequate soil volume to support healthy tree/shrub
Distance from fence/property lines	3'	5'	5'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid tree/shrub growing into fence To allow room for balanced growth (not lop-sided) To minimize root damage during future fence repairs/replacement To avoid potential conflict with neighbours
Distance from hard surfaces (decks, paving, etc.)	3'	5'	7'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure adequate soft ground surface for root growth To ensure water/air can infiltrate and reach roots
Distance from buildings with foundations	3'	10'	10'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid future conflict with roots/foundations and with canopies/houses as trees/shrubs grow
Distance from stumps and existing ash trees	8'	8'	8'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid planting in and around the old root system – can be physically impossible and/or change the soil pH from old root decomposition which can affect new tree/shrub
Distance from existing trees	8' (6' from LEAF trees being planted at same time as shrub)	15'	20'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure adequate space, light, water and nutrients for all trees/shrubs to grow to their full potential To avoid conflicts between trees in future that may require costly pruning or removal
Overhead wires	Not an issue	Avoid	Avoid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent improper and unnecessary pruning in the future which could negatively impact tree health
Raised beds or container planting	Not recommended	Never in containers, use discretion for raised beds	Never in containers, use discretion for raised beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not enough space for root growth

*Note: the above distances are minimum requirements. More space may be required for larger species

*If you need to, you can be flexible and drop down 1-2' on any above requirements with the exception of distance from existing stumps and distances from property lines/fences

*If there is a cedar hedge present in the yard, try to site trees and shrubs 5-6' away, but use your judgement depending on each individual yard and species you are siting