



Your tree is part of the urban forest.



**EACH TREE PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE** in improving the health of our urban communities. In addition to reducing energy costs by providing shade for our streets and buildings, trees work hard to sequester carbon dioxide, filter pollutants from the air and reduce the amount of stormwater that flows into our water treatment system. The presence of trees can also increase your property value, provide natural privacy and create a more pleasant place to live. Planting larger growing trees increases these benefits!

## The birds, the bees and the butterflies...

**ONE OUT OF EVERY THREE BITES OF FOOD YOU TAKE** is thanks to a butterfly, bee, bird or other pollinator! Pollinators transfer pollen from one flower to another, providing a critical service necessary for plant and food production. Native tree and shrub species in particular play a crucial role in supporting pollinators because they have evolved together over millions of years. Unfortunately due to habitat loss, reduced plant diversity, pesticide use and other stresses, our pollinators are declining at alarming rates. By planting a variety of native trees, shrubs and perennials, you will be helping our flying friends! Check out our Native Garden Kits to see how you can build pollinator habitat in your backyard!



By planting your own tree you're improving our urban forest. But you don't have to stop there! Here are some other hands-on ways you can get involved:

### Become a Tree Tender

LEAF's Tree Tenders Volunteer Training Program is offered at affordable rates to help you gain the skills and knowledge to enact positive, immediate change for the urban forest in your own neighbourhood. Gain basic arboriculture skills through a combination of indoor and outdoor instruction, including a hands-on tree planting activity.

### Attend a workshop, talk or tour

LEAF offers a variety of outreach activities with topics ranging from a basic introduction of urban forest issues, to identifying native species in your neighbourhood, to biodiversity and other environmental concerns. Visit our website to learn about upcoming events or to request a workshop, talk or tour in your neighbourhood!

### Become an EAB Ambassador or volunteer

Spread the word about the invasive Emerald Ash Borer and provide your neighbours with information about options for ash trees, including treatment, removal, replanting and wood salvage. Other volunteer opportunities include planting and care at public demonstration gardens, office administration, research and writing, community outreach and taking photos at LEAF events!

# Planting & care guide

416.413.9244 | [www.yourleaf.org](http://www.yourleaf.org)



LEAF is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection and improvement of our urban forest. Through on-the-ground planting and education programs we improve city life one tree at a time!

Supported by





# 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 to 40 per cent and reduce peak energy demand by up to 30 per cent 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 to 11 per cent on winter heating energy needs. Shading your air conditioning unit with shrubs allows it to run more efficiently, saving you even more! To determine the benefits your tree will provide, check out our Ontario Residential Tree Benefits Estimator at:

[www.yourleaf.org/estimator](http://www.yourleaf.org/estimator)

**MAINTENANCE PACKAGE** We are now offering an optional five-year maintenance package for newly planted trees to ensure they get off to the best possible start in life. This package is offered at an affordable price and includes a yearly application of mulch, tree health assessments and minor pruning as needed. Furthermore, in year three, four or five of the program, we will conduct structural pruning in order to ensure a strong growing structure and a healthy future. Visit our website for more information!

# 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 2 cm layer on the soil surface.
5. Add a layer of mulch (woodchips, leaves or similar organic material) approximately eight cm 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.

Check out our online planting and care workshop video series

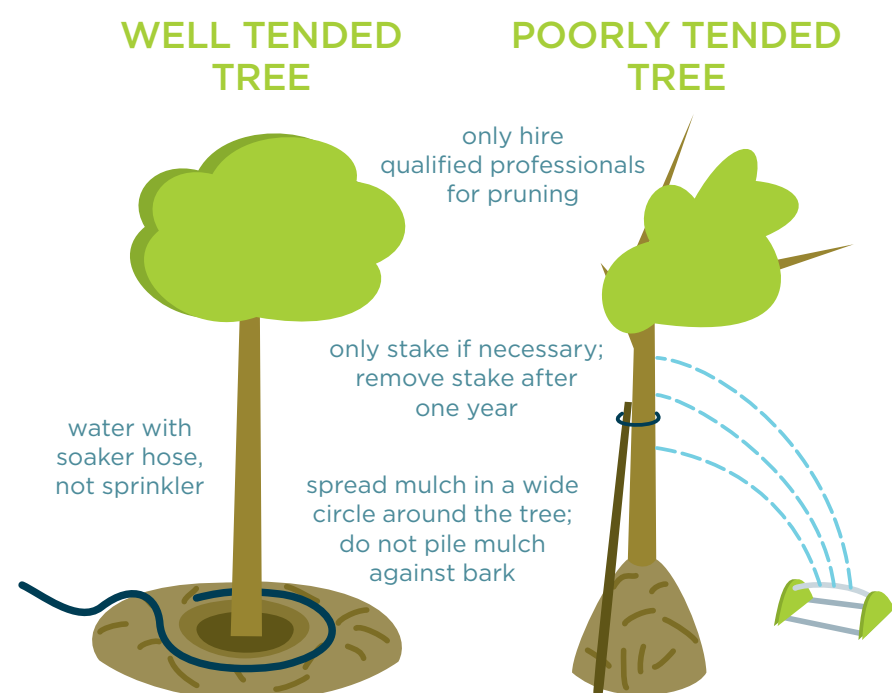


## TREE CARE TIPS

- Water using a soaker hose placed on the mulch 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.
- Stake only if necessary, not by default. Trees are naturally strengthened when they move in the wind, and staking prevents this from happening.
- If staking is necessary (eg. a tree planted in a very windy location or if there aren't enough roots to stabilize the new tree), drive two support stakes into the ground about two feet from the tree on opposite sides. Using only soft, flexible materials that will not cut into the bark, loosely tie the material to the tree and stakes on either side to minimize damage. Remove all stakes and ties after one year to avoid girdling.
- A tree needs to adjust to its new location for at least two to three years before being pruned.
- After three to five years, a tree should be pruned to achieve proper form and minimize future problems. LEAF offers structural pruning through its optional five-year maintenance package.
- Pruning is not an effective way of trying to keep a large-growing tree small.

## Mind the roots

Roots tend to grow outwards from the tree - 90 per cent of a tree's roots are in the top 50 cm (18 inches) of soil, most of which are delicate. Be careful not to disturb these roots especially in the first few years when the tree is establishing itself.



## Mulch to keep roots happy and healthy



Woodchips, leaves and compost are good options. Mulch should be eight cm deep and spread far around the tree. Mulch protects roots by keeping the moisture in the soil, eliminates competition from weeds and grass and adds nutrients to the soil as it decomposes. Replenish your mulch at least once per year.

## AVOID...

- Applying chemical fertilizers or pesticides to tree or lawn
- Mowing, tilling, weed whacking around base of tree
- Compacting the soil around base of tree
- Covering areas near tree with concrete blocks or paving
- Tying or attaching anything to tree
- Using de-icing salts near the tree