

Tree Care Instructions

Trees are a great way to make your neighbourhood more beautiful, improve air quality, provide homes for wildlife, and improve your overall well-being. By following these few tips, you can grow thriving and healthy trees in your community:

WHERE TO PLANT: Check the exact location of your property line as trees should be planted on private property. Planting trees on City property is not permitted.

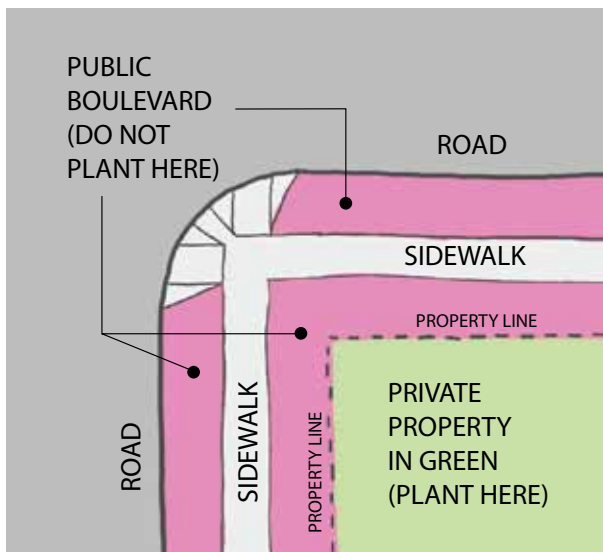


Fig 1: Trees should only be planted in the green area

- Growing conditions for different species of trees can be different so look for a spot that is ideal for your tree. Consider sun/shade, soil moisture and space requirements.
- Allow room for growth as the canopy and the roots may get big over the years.
- **Call Before You Dig!** Before planting a new tree on your property; you need to identify if there are utilities like gas, water, sewer etc., to prevent expensive damage. Call **BC One Call** at **1-800-474-6886** or visit them online at **bc1c.ca** to find out more.



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HOW TO PLANT:

- A few things you will need before planting your tree are: gloves, proper footwear, a shovel or trowel, and mulch (optional).
- Dig a hole two to three times wider than the container and as deep as the root ball. A good way to see if your hole is big enough is to put the tree in the hole while still in the pot.
- Gently slide the root ball out of the pot, carefully loosen the roots and plant the top of the root ball slightly above the ground level—if it's too low, water could pool and promote mould and rot, and if it's too high, it may dry out.
- Fill the hole in and around the root ball with the soil that was removed. Only add soil up to where the tree trunk widens to transition into the root system; avoid piling soil up around the trunk.
- Remove large rocks, grass or sod from this soil as you backfill. Lightly but firmly tamp the new soil and edges of the root ball with your heel or hands to make sure the tree is firmly in place.
- Step by Step instructions can also be found at: treecanada.ca/how-to-plant-a-tree

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR TREE:

- Mulch (Optional): Apply two to four inches of mulch in a circle around the root area, ensuring it doesn't touch the trunk. Mulch helps retain moisture, regulate soil temperature and suppress weeds.
- Watering: Water trees immediately after planting and then on a weekly basis to keep the soil moist and healthy. You can skip watering when it has been raining.
- Other tips and tricks: Additional nutrition isn't necessary unless soil conditions are poor. You may consider using an organic fertilizer once a year to help add nutrients in your soil. To make the canopy of your tree fuller and improve branch spacing, you can remove dead or damaged branches by pruning in late fall or early spring.



Fig 2: Lightly but firmly tamp the backfilled soil up to the root flare, without burying the trunk.

