



## Planting Trees: More Questions & Answers

### Why plant a tree?

**Reduce** furnace and air conditioner energy use by providing shade in summer and sun in winter.

**Reduce** maintenance by planting native species already well adapted to local growing conditions.

**Increase** biodiversity in your city to reduce pest vulnerability, enrich urban habitats and increase visual interest around town.

### Where do I plant to save energy?

WEST side of home: Large **deciduous trees** here will provide **afternoon summer shade**, reducing temperature in the home. Bare branches allow the sun to add heat in winter months. Plant trees **30-50 ft.** from building.

EAST side of home: **Deciduous trees** here will provide **morning summer shade**, keeping your home from heating up early in the day. Bare branches allow the sun to add heat in winter months. Plant trees **30-50 ft.** from building.

NORTHWEST of home: **Dense evergreens** here reduce the intensity of **winter winds**, keeping more heat in your home. Plant trees **25-50 ft.** from building, generally **6 ft.** apart.

SOUTH side of home: Leave this side of your home open to **maximize winter sunlight**. If you have many windows here plant trees with a **less dense canopy 10-20 ft.** from building.

### How do I choose a tree?

SIZE: **Large trees (70 ft. tall or more)** shade more of your walls, windows and roof. Large size is most important on the west side of your home, where there is the highest potential for energy savings. **Medium trees (30-70 ft.)** will work fine when space is limited. Trees on the south side may be medium to **small (30 ft. or less)**. Evergreens intended as a windbreak are ideally **twice the height** of the building when full grown.

SHAPE: A **rounded** or **spreading** crown on a deciduous tree provides the most area of shade. Check the **expected crown diameter** of the tree you want to plant to be sure it will not overlap other trees or your roof. **Columnar** trees provide shade where space is limited.

DENSITY: **Moderately dense** leaves provide shade without overly darkening the interior of your home. **Less dense** canopies are suitable on the south side of your home, allowing shade in summer as well as daylight in summer and winter. Evergreens intended as a windbreak should have **fairly dense** branches and needles.