

Things to Consider When Selecting Your Trees

- Many of these trees will get big! Read descriptions carefully and envision what the tree will look like in 30+ years. Larger trees provide greater benefits to your neighborhood and our environment. Large trees absorb more water, breathe in more carbon dioxide, and breathe out more oxygen than smaller trees. For these reasons, the City of Seattle recommends planting larger trees whenever appropriate.
- Do not plant a **tall** tree under power lines. Trees planted under power lines should reach a maximum of 20' at maturity or the safety of the power lines will be compromised. For sites under power lines, select trees from the "trees appropriate under power lines" list.
- Take time to evaluate sites on your property where trees can fit. The survival and health of a tree depends on how well it is suited to the spot that you plant it. Consider: placement (is there enough space for this tree when it grows up?), light, moisture, and type of soil.

Selecting Street Trees

- To avoid future problems, trees must be planted at least 5 ft. from underground utility lines, 10 ft. from power poles, 20 ft. from street lights or other trees, and 30 ft. from a corner curb. For this reason, a permit is required when planting a street tree.
- If you would like to plant a tree along the street, please note the following process:
 1. On your application, be sure to mark trees that you plan to plant along the street as "street trees". Evaluate your planting strip and check the description of the trees you are selecting (especially the height/spread and minimum planting strip width information). Honey crisp apple trees may NOT be planted on the street.
 2. We will initiate the SDOT permit on your behalf and submit a request to have the locations of buried utilities on your property marked prior to the city arborist's visit in September. The utility companies will come to your site to mark the location of the buried utilities; you do not need to be present for this.
 3. An SDOT arborist will visit your site sometime in September to make a decision about your street tree planting request. You do not need to be home for this visit.

4. In late September, SDOT will send all of their street tree decisions to us and we will alert all applicants regarding the decision. We will also work with applicants to resolve any issues that can be solved.
 5. You must attend a planting care workshop to pick up your tree and plant the tree yourself. You will be responsible for all watering and maintenance for your new street trees.
- We cannot remove concrete / pavement to create new tree planting locations. If you are planning to remove concrete / pavement yourself, that work must be coordinated with the Department of Transportation. Call 206-684-TREE for more information.

Application Approval and Tree Pickup Information

- The number of trees approved for your yard may be fewer than the number requested. Please note that tree availability is not guaranteed.
- If you do not own your home, you must obtain the permission of the homeowner before applying for trees through the program.
- You must be present at the planting and care workshop to pick up your tree(s). Indicate which date you are available to attend the workshop on the application.
- You are responsible for transporting your trees from the pickup site to your home. You may need to rent or borrow a pickup truck if you have a small vehicle or are picking up numerous trees. Remember that having more passengers in the car means less space for trees!
- The trees will be in 5, 7, or 10 gallon containers and are generally 4-6 feet tall. There will be people to help load your trees on the pick-up days, but you may need to make sure you have help to unload once you are home. Find a neighbor!
- All trees should be planted within 1-2 weeks after receiving them.
- Your young trees will not survive the dry summer without watering. Water bags will be provided to help you care for your trees in the summer.

Questions? Email treesforneighborhoods@seattle.gov or call (206) 615-1668.