



# How to: Select & Plant a Tree

Buying a tree is one of the biggest investments you will make in your Texas landscape. Choosing a suitable tree for the space you plan to plant is essential to a tree that will withstand Texas weather conditions and thrive for years to come. Equally important is the proper planting and care of your tree.

## Materials:

- Shovel
- Soil Amendments
- Water Hose
- Tree
- Gardening Gloves
- Mulch

## Step 1: Site selection:

Have a plan. Determine the space you want to fill with trees. Consider the mature size of the tree to avoid crowding out other plants or interfering with structures. On the north side of your home, plant evergreens for Summer shade and a windbreak in Winter. On the south side, a deciduous tree provides Summer shade and Winter sun when the leaves have fallen. Fruit and berry trees can offer beauty, shade and an edible novelty for your family.

## Step 2: Tree selection:

Tree variety factors in the amount of care and maintenance required in your landscape as well as how well your tree will thrive. Extreme weather and soil can be a challenge and should be considered before planting.

## Step 3: Tree planting:

The best time to plant trees is Fall and Winter when the plant has time to adjust to a new environment before summer. Container grown trees can be planted in Summer with proper care and attention.

- Dig a hole twice as wide as soil ball is wide but only as deep as the tree was grown
- Mix half the existing native soil with half a premium quality tree and shrub mix
- Use this 50/50 mixture to fill in the hole so the root ball is level with the existing ground; fill and tap soil all around the root ball using remaining soil mix to build a small rim around the hole

- Thoroughly water the tree to settle the soil
- Cover the soil with 2 inches of mulch
- Stake the tree if needed (Smaller trees protected from high winds don't require stakes)

## Step 4: Tree Care & Watering:

- Soil should be comfortably moist to the touch; tree roots remain active at all seasons so water year round based on when the soil is dry
- Infrequent but deep watering encourages deep rooting
- To conserve moisture and prevent weed growth add 2" of mulch each year around trees
- Trees should be fertilized twice a year, in early Fall and again in the Spring
- Observe your trees often to detect insect or fungus problems and if you notice a problem, get expert advice early

## Fall Water-Thrifty Trees and Shrubs

- Shade trees that use low to moderate amounts of water: Live Oak, Red Oak, Cedar Elm, Bur Oak, Lacebark Elm, and Pecan
- More traditional trees: Magnolia and Chinese Pistache
- Ornamental trees: Crape myrtle, Yaupon Holly, Desert Willow, Japanese Maples and Redbuds

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