



With Earth Day on April 22 and Arbor Day on April 30, you might be thinking that now is a good time to plant a tree.

Spring is an excellent time to plant trees. Planting trees in the dormant stage allows the tree to become established before temperatures get too high, and take advantage of spring rains for thorough (and free!) watering.

The most important part of tree planting is site preparation. Pick the proper location for the type of tree you wish to plant. Soil type, drainage, amount of sunlight, and location to other trees, buildings, and utilities are important factors in choosing where to plant. To give your tree the best chance of survival, follow these planting instructions:

- The hole should be two to three times wider than the pot or root ball, and only deep enough to allow the plant's soil line to be at or slightly higher than the soil around it. Sub soil should be firm.
- Place the tree in the hole and check to be sure that it is straight. Once the tree is straight, remove any ropes, wires, or burlap from at least the top half of the tree roots. Potted trees may need to have the roots separated or scored (cutting down through outer roots) if roots are following the shape of the pot.
- Back fill with dirt and lightly compact the soil every few inches of fill. Roots may need spreading out as you go.
- Mound dirt in a saucer fashion or raised rim of dirt around the edge of the hole.
- If the tree needs staked, be sure to remove the stakes and guide wires after about a year.
- The final part of planting is to mulch 2" to 4" depth and do not mound against the trunk. Then be sure to water, checking it at least once a week.



A tree correctly planted will grow twice as fast and live much longer than a tree planted incorrectly.

Gahanna's Arbor Program

The City of Gahanna has worked hard to promote a healthy urban forest and better environment. 2010 is the 21st consecutive year that Gahanna will receive a Tree City USA award from the National Arbor Day Foundation. This award is given to cities that fulfill all the criteria that show they have been good stewards of the urban forest. In the past three years, the City has completed a street tree inventory, planted 852 trees, removed 609 trees, and pruned 7,560 trees. Our mission is to continue improving our urban forest and make it safer for citizens to live, work and play. Celebrate Arbor Day and plant a tree for future generations, or attend the City of Gahanna's Arbor Day celebration on the morning of April 30th at Jefferson Elementary School.