

Selecting the right tree for your space



A step-by-step guide for selecting an ideal tree for your available planting location

Step One: Available Space and Tree Size

For a successful transplant the minimum planting location should be no smaller than a 4ftx4ft area, it is important to have adequate root space to prevent girdling roots

4ftx4ft area or larger: Suitable for small tree varieties, up to 30 ft in height

6ftx8ft area or larger: Suitable for medium and small tree varieties, trees 30-50 ft in height

12ftx10ft area or larger: Suitable for large, medium, and small tree varieties, 50 ft or greater in height

Pro-Tips

You should always call 811 to check if your planting location intersects underground utilities, planting a tree on top or near utilities can cause damage.

It is not recommended to plant tree below powerline or telephone cables but if it is the only space available, plant a small tree variety

Expanded List of Tree varieties

Small Trees: Eastern Redbud, Forest Pansy Redbud, Rising Sun Redbud, Silver Cloud Redbud, Merlot Redbud, Hedge Maple, Japanese Lilac, Adirondack Crabapple, Tatarian Maple, Wireless Zelkova, Camperdown Elm, Beijing Gold Lilac, Allegheny Serviceberry, Wildfire Black Gum, Winter King Hawthorn, Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry, Gingerbread Maple, Rocky Mountain Glow Maple, Amur Maple, Cherry Plum, Princess Diana Serviceberry, Red Barron Crabapple, Frontier Elm, White Redbud, Canada Red Select Cherry, City Sprite Zelkova, Royal Burgundy Cherry, Paperbark Maple, Flowering Dogwood, American Hornbeam, Royal Raindrop Crabapple, American Plum, Persimmon, Silky Dogwood, Washington Hawthorn, American Smoketree, Corkscrew Willow, Cornelian Cherry Dogwood, Fringetree, Kousa Dogwood, Star Magnolia,

Medium Trees: Yoshino Cherry, Columnar Norway Maple, Emerald Sunshine Elm, Serviceberry, Morton Glossy Elm, Green Column Maple, Red Horse Chestnut, Tupelo Tower Black Gum, Chinese Elm, Red Sunset Maple, Dura Heat River Birch, Musashino Columnar Zelkova, Northern Catalpa, Freeman Maple, Eastern Red Cedar, Northern White Cedar, American Filbert, American Hophornbeam, Amur Maackia, Arborvitae, Cucumbertree, Goldenraintree, Hardy Rubber, Jack Pine, Katsura, Miyabes Maple, Slippery Elm, Weeping Willow, White Spruce

Large Trees: Bald Cypress, Swamp White Oak, Sweet Bay Magnolia, Red Maple, Tulip Tree, Japanese Zelkova, American Elm, Sawtooth Oak, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Bur Oak, Yellowwood, Black locust, Chestnut Oak, Chinkapin Oak, Sugar Maple, American Linden, Three Flowered Maple, Northern Red Oak, Princeton Sentry Gingko, River Birch, Slender Silhouette Sweetgum, American Sycamore, London Plane, European Hornbeam, Scarlett Oak, Shingle Oak, Bur Oak, American Basswood, American Sweetgum, Pin Oak, Black Cherry, Black Oak, Black Walnut, Silver Linden, Butternut, Cherrybark Oak, Green Ash, Hazelnut, Norway Spruce, Overcup Oak, Pecan, Pignut Hickory, Pitch Loblolly Pine, Red Pine, Shagbark Hickory, Shellbark Hickory, Swamp Chestnut Oak, Virginia Pine, White Ash, White Pine, American Holly, American Beech, Atlas Cedar, Balsam Fir, Bigtooth Aspen, Bitternut Hickory, European Black Alder, Black Maple, Black Willow, Boxelder, Common Hackberry, Eastern Cottonwood, Eastern Hemlock, English Oak, European Beech, Japanese Pagoda Tree, Littleleaf Linden, Mockernut Hickory, Sassafras, Scotch Pine, Shumard Oak, White Oak, Willow Oak, Yellow Birch, Yellow Buckeye,

Questions?

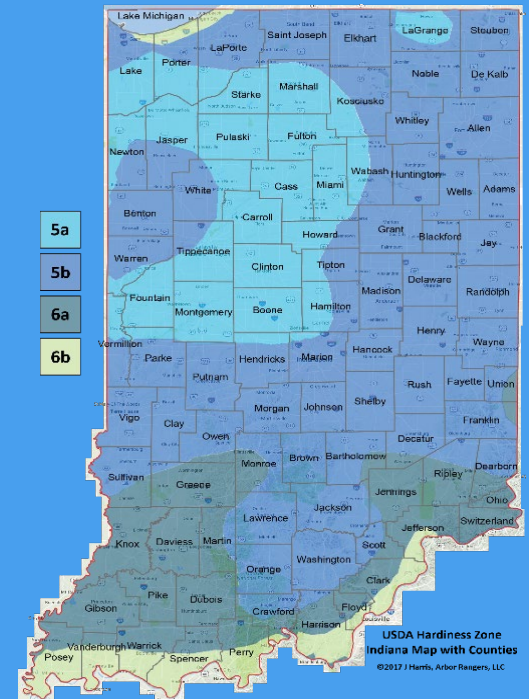
Reach out to Dearborn County SWCD

812-926-2406 Ext.3

10729 Randall Avenue, Aurora IN 47001

Step Two: Picking a Tree Compatible with your Climate

Now that you have determined what size tree you are going to plant, you want to select a tree that will fare well in your climate



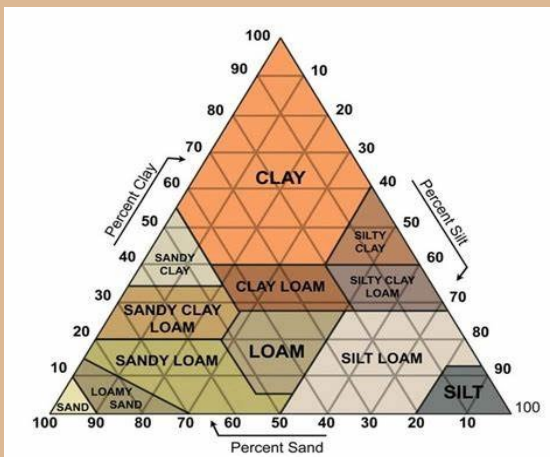
Above is a map of the USDA Hardiness Zones for Indiana. Hardiness Zones are determined by the lowest temperature an area may be.

To prevent your tree from experiencing heat or cold stress, it is best practice to plant a tree well suited for hardiness zones 5 & 6. These will be trees native to Indiana or trees grown at similar latitudes

Examples of Trees for Hardiness Zones 5 & 6:

- 1.Small: Eastern Redbud, Japanese Lilac, Crabapple, Wireless Zelkova, Dwarf Junipers, etc.
- 2.Medium: Yoshino Cherry, Columnar Norway Maple, Emerald Sunshine Elm, Serviceberry, etc.
- 3.Large: Bald Cypress, Swamp White Oak, Sweet Bay Magnolia, Red Maple, Tulip Tree, etc.

Step Three: Identify Soil Type



Above is a triangle displaying the different soil textures. Soil texture plays a key component in water availability. You will need to identify what soil texture you have to prevent your tree from suffering root rot due to excessive water or drought stress due to insufficient water.

To determine what soil texture you have, you can reach out to your local Soil and Water Conservation District. The SWCD can assist you with determining your soil texture with the resources they have available

Clay soils hold water the longest in comparison to silt and sand, so if your soil is high in clay content, it is recommended you plant a tree tolerant of wet soils.

Examples: Bald Cypress, River Birch,
Black Willow

Soils high in sand content retain water for the least amount of time, so you may want to plant a tree that is drought tolerant

Examples: Gingko, Shagbark Hickory,
American Elms

Step Four: Determine Sunlight



If you are planting your tree on a slope, since we are in the Northern hemisphere, any tree on a South facing slope will receive significantly more sunlight than one facing North. If you are planting on the North, you may want to plant a shade tolerant tree. Alternatively, if you are planting on a South facing slope, you may want to plant a drought tolerant tree or water your tree more frequently.

Another aspect of sunlight to consider is will your tree have direct sun (completely unimpaired) or indirect sunlight (partial sunlight due to interference by a medium)

Trees for direct sunlight: Birch, Gingko, Cedar

Trees for indirect sunlight: Hornbeam,
Serviceberry



Step Five: Choose a Planting Time

The best time to plant your tree varies on the age of the tree

Seeds or Seedlings: Plant in spring when soil moisture is high, and temperatures are moderate

1"-3" DBH (diameter at breast height): In fall or late spring when temperatures are above freezing but less than 80 degrees on average

Greater than 3" DBH: Best to transplant is in fall, late winter, or early spring

Pro-tips:

If you are transplanting a tree, the tree will need to re-establish prior to moving the tree once more in order to prevent stress on the tree. A general rule of thumb is "DBH=years to re-establish", so a 1" tree will need 1 year prior to being transplanted again

Young trees on average need 20 gallons of water per week, so make sure to water your tree frequently

Trees 1-3" in diameter are optimum for transplanting, the larger the tree the more stress that tree will experience during transplanting