



## Borough of Glen Rock Tree Tips

### Selecting the right tree and planting it in the right place.

Trees are the most permanent plants we grow. Many will live for 100 or more years if they are given a chance. Care must be taken to select the best species for each situation. The first step is to define the purpose of your new tree.

#### Why are you planting a tree?

The right tree in the right place provides wind protection and shade/energy reduction, while adding beauty, privacy, and wildlife habitat to the landscape. Your end goal will impact the suitability of different trees.

#### Consider your planting site limitations

- *Height and spread of mature trees.* Consider whether there is enough room around the tree to grow. Is the tree you are choosing small, medium or large. How tall will it grow and how wide will its crown get. For example, overhead wires will limit the height of mature trees and you will want to select a shorter tree.
- *How much room is needed?* Plant most trees at least 10-12ft from your house. Large trees such as Oaks should be at least 20ft from your house or other trees. Trees too close to a home can damage gutters and roofs and provide a means for insects and animals to enter your house. Trees that are crowded will be stressed due to competition for moisture and nutrients and may develop lopsided growth.
- *Sun exposure.* How much available sun will affect how your tree grows. Some species need more sun than others. Planting large trees on the southeast, southwest, and west provide cooling shade in the summer, but don't obstruct the low winter sun.
- *Soil conditions.* Some trees prefer wetter conditions and others dryer sandy soil. Determining what type of soil you have in your yard to find the right tree.
- *When to plant.* In general, early spring and late fall, when the climate is moderate and trees are dormant, tend to be the easiest times to successfully plant trees. Some species thrive better when planted in a particular season.
- *Consider climate conditions.* The Plant Hardiness Zone Map, based on average minimum winter temperatures, will help determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location. Glen Rock is in 'Hardiness Zone 6b. Our location and weather have a tremendous impact on which trees will grow.

#### Shade trees vs. ornamentals

- Shade trees offer many more environmental benefits than ornamentals.
- Shade trees contribute to water quality, air quality, stormwater issues, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, local economy, and quality of life.
- Shade trees soak up so much of our community's stormwater and its pollutants that they protect our water and streams.

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