

Living Streamside

Guide to Designing your Property and Protecting our Watershed

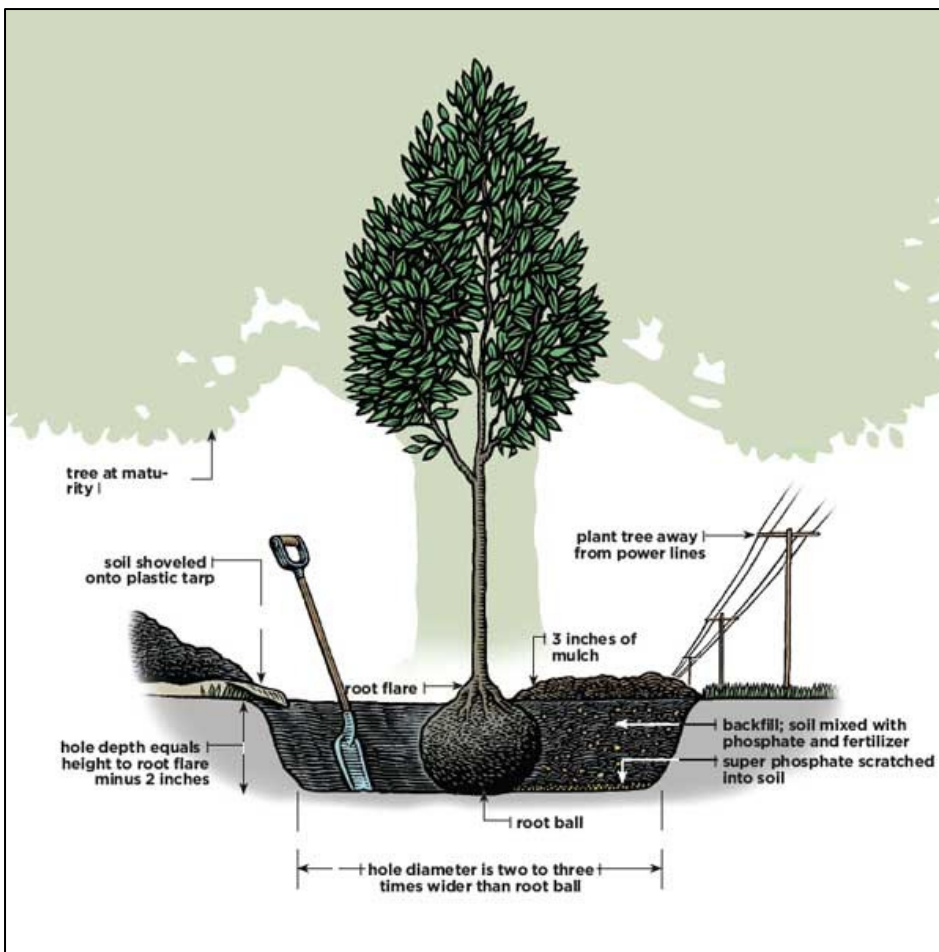


BACKYARD BUFFER PROGRAM

Tree & Shrub Planting Basics

Description:

- General guide to properly planting a tree or shrub.



Picture source: "How to Plant a Tree". Joseph Truini. *This Old House Magazine*.
<http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/>

Tip Sheet #4

Functions/Benefits:

- Roots stabilize soil.
- Native plants provide wildlife habitat.
- Trees reduce heating and cooling costs:
 - Evergreen trees planted on north side of home can reduce energy costs by blocking winter wind.
 - Deciduous trees (leaves fall off in winter) planted on south side of home can reduce energy costs by blocking summer sun.
- Plants help clean the air.
- Adds beauty and color to your yard.
- Adds value to your home.

Recommendations:

- Location is important. Avoid overhead & underground utilities.
- Take the FREE Tree Tenders Training at Pennsylvania Horticultural Society or TreeVitalize (see page 2 for more info)!



For more information, contact:
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Tree & Shrub Planting Basics Tip Sheet #4

How to plant a tree or shrub:

1. Dig hole 2-3 times the width of the root ball but same depth as root ball.
2. Remove the container or any plastic or string around the root ball.
3. Place tree or shrub in hole and keep straight. Root flare should be flush with final grade.
4. Fill the hole with soil, and firmly (but gently) pack the soil.
5. Water thorough and slowly. First year after planting water approximately 15 gallons per week. Check soil with finger – do not water if soil is moist/cool.
6. Mulch around base of tree or shrub. Do not let mulch touch base of plant stem (keep mulch 2-4 inches from stem).
7. If you use stakes & wire/hose or other supports, remove them after 1 year so they do not girdle (cut) tree trunk/stem.

References:

- Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Educational offerings: Tree Tenders phone: (215) 988-8800, web: www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org
- *A Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management*, Philadelphia Water Department
(www.delawareestuary.org/pdf/HomeownersGuideSWMgmnt.pdf)
- TreeVitalize state program providing education and support
(www.treevitalize.net)
- List of native plant nurseries by Pennsylvania Native Plant Society
(www.pawildflower.org)
- Pennsylvania State Cooperative Extension by county
(<http://extension.psu.edu/>)
- Soils testing: Pennsylvania State Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory
(www.aasl.psu.edu)



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