

# PLANT THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE



## CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLACE

Choosing the right location is vital for successful growing. Both above ground and below ground should be considered when choosing which tree to plant and where. Our website has information on all the trees we have sold or donated in the past, including their average height and spread at maturity. Other problems that can be avoided by choosing the right location include: damage to property caused by roots or branches; cracked pavement, streets, driveways, porches; clogged sewer lines or septic tanks; blocked traffic signs or streets; potential storm damage and electrical problems; blocked views or windows. If you are looking to use your tree to create shade that will cool your home, it is also important to consider which side of your house you want to plant on. Planting on the southeast provides morning shade, whereas planting on the southwest side provided afternoon shade. Also, planting a deciduous tree will only give you shade half of the year, and allow the sun to warm your home during the winter.



## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TREE

Always plan for the mature size of your seedling, and know how fast it will grow. The tulip popular, our state tree, may be suitable for a yard for the first 50 years of its life, but it will eventually grow to over 100ft.



Once you know where you want to plant you can start looking at different species native to your area. Tennessee's geography includes ranges from USDA Zone 6a to USDA Zone 7b. Next, you should consider personal preferences as well as logistics. Personal preferences include colors, flowering, fruiting, etc. Logistical characteristics include size and shape. At this point, you should know how much room you have for the tree.

Obviously, you do not want to pick a tree with a mature spread of 75ft if you live in a crowded urban neighborhood. Another common issue in urban areas is adverse environmental conditions such as air pollution, soil compaction and poor moisture. When selecting a tree you should consider its tolerance to these conditions. Flood tolerance and drought tolerance are also factors that should be considered if you are planting in an area prone to inconsistent rainfall.

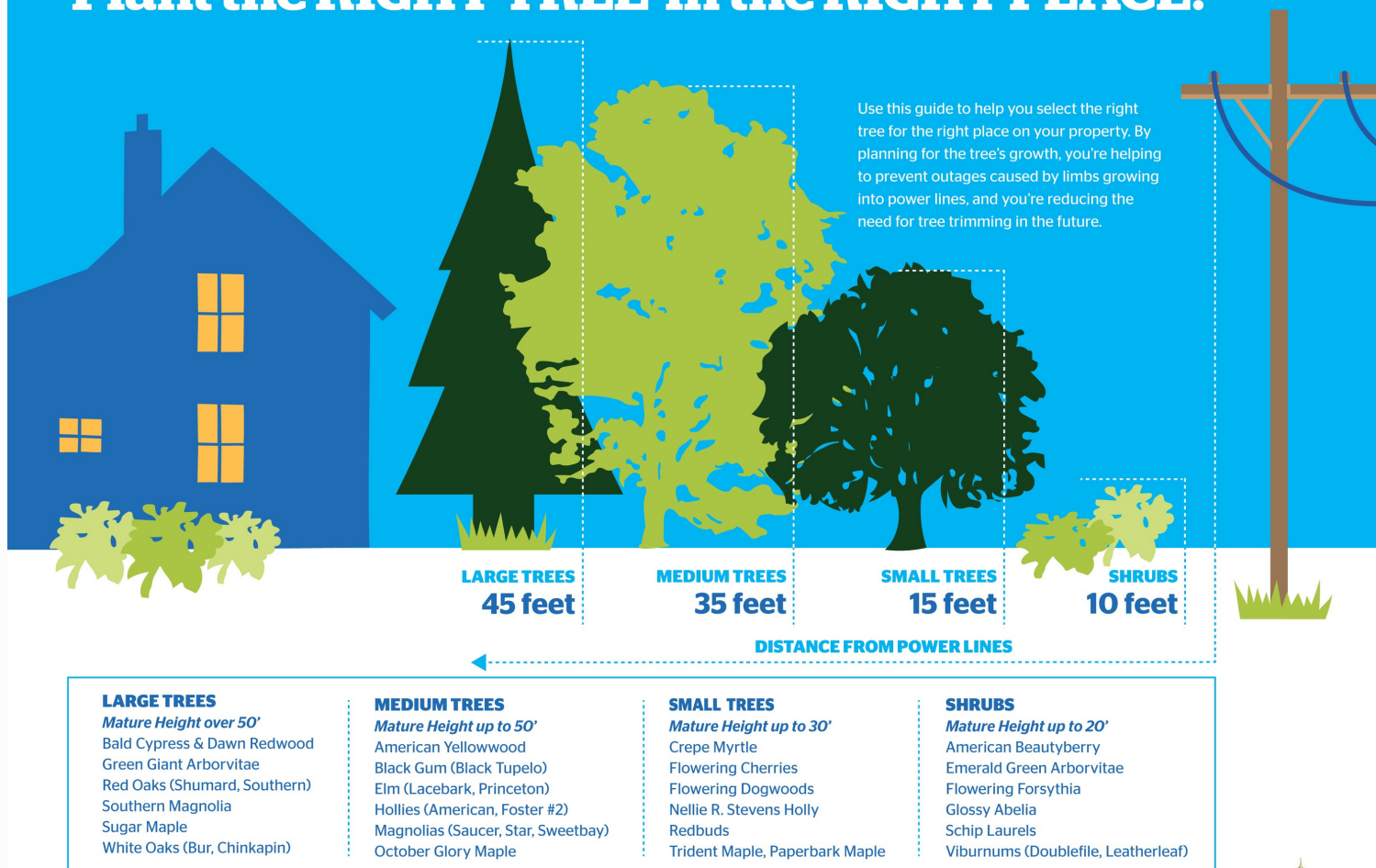
Along with knowing the good attributes you want in a tree, such as aesthetic flowers, you also want to research the less desirable characteristics. For example some trees are prone to insects and diseases. Dutch elm disease, southern pine beetle, Japanese beetle, white pine weevil, anthracnose, powdery mildew, phytophthora root rot, verticillium wilt, gypsy moth, eastern tent

caterpillar, various aphids, mites, scale and borers are all prominent diseases and insects found in Tennessee. Other undesirable traits may include trees that cause allergies. People who are sensitive to seasonal pollen should choose a tree that will not agitate them.

All trees require some sort of maintenance, the complexity of their maintenance will vary per species. You should choose a tree that you can realistically care for. In general, fast-growing trees require more frequent maintenance. Their wood is weaker and there will be more debris from branches breaking off in the wind or storms. If you are planting near your home or a street, you may have to prune the tree more frequently to prevent damage or dangerous view restriction.



# Plant the RIGHT TREE in the RIGHT PLACE.



**remember:** Call 811 before planting to learn where underground lines, pipes and cables are buried in your yard. For more information, visit [nespower.com](http://nespower.com) or call our tree hotline at (615) 695-7400.



## Final tips

1. Sun or shade?
  - Know how much sun your planting location receives and compare that to how much sun each tree species needs
1. Shape and size
  - Imagine your tree in 20 years or even in 50 years, will it still fit in the location you choose?
1. Look out for wire, pavement, and septic tanks
  - Use the guide above to see how far you should plant from power lines, and don't plant within a yard of any pavement
1. How close is the tree to your home?
  - Will this tree overgrown into your home, or damage your home as it grows.
1. Save money with a shade tree or windbreak tree
  - Plant on the north side to block cold winter winds
  - Planting on the southeast provides morning shade, whereas planting on the southwest side provided afternoon shade

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JANUARY 2021

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## Location is Everything

Planting a new tree is always an exciting new journey that requires careful planning. From the location of planting to picking a tree species, every step of the tree planting process is crucial in ensuring the successful growth of your new tree. When planting trees choosing the best location is the first step in a very important process. There are several factors to consider when deciding on the location to plant your tree such as the tree's average height and spread at maturity, how the tree will look in the spot it is planted, and how much shade the tree will provide. Picking the proper location to plant your tree is key in ensuring the prevention of various problems that could arise. The proper location prevents damage to property caused by roots or branches such as cracked pavement, streets, driveways, blocked traffic signs, electrical problems, and clogged sewer lines and septic tanks. Although not as critical, when choosing a location one needs to consider the position on the property the tree is in. Are you blocking a window? Can you no longer see your favorite view? Though it may seem silly these are still important factors to keep in mind when picking the appropriate location for your tree. All of these problems big and small can be addressed with some proper planning!

## Location Tips

- Know how much sun your planting location receives and compare that to how much sun each tree species needs
- Planting a deciduous tree will only give you shade half of the year, and allow the sun to warm your home during the winter
- Planting on the southeast provides morning shade, whereas planting on the southwest side provided afternoon shade
- Plant on the north side to block cold winter winds





## Choosing the Right Tree

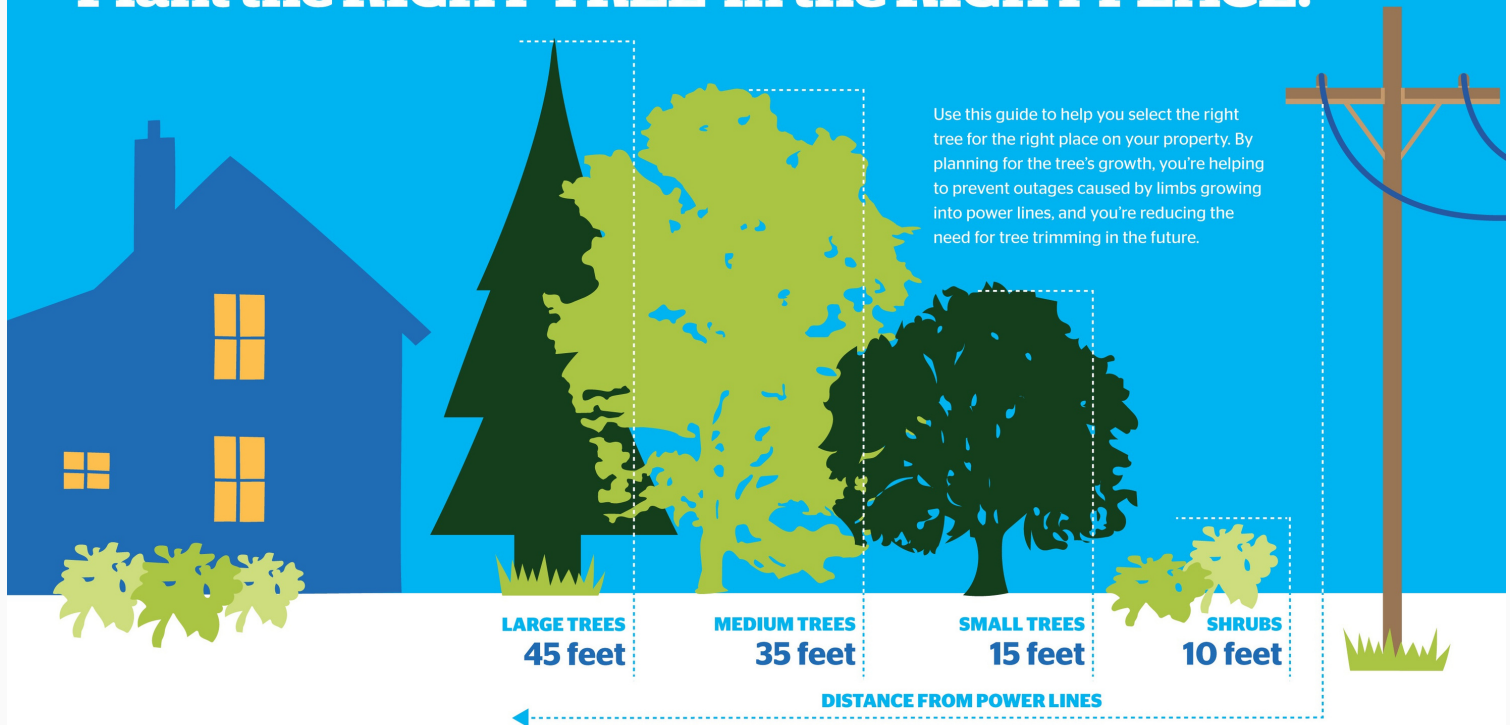
Once you have picked the perfect location for your new tree you can start looking at different species native to your region. Much like with picking a location, there are several factors one must consider when picking what tree species to plant. When selecting a tree species it is essential to consider geography, outside conditions such as air pollution, soil compaction, and poor moisture, flood/drought tolerance, and personal aesthetic. One can see what zone they fall in by examining the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map. Tennessee's geography includes ranges from USDA Zone 6a to USDA Zone 7b. These zones tell you when and where to plant your tree so make sure to pick a species that fall into this category. Once you know what species falls within your zone you are able to focus on what aesthetic you are looking for. These details include colors, flowering, fruiting, and logistical characteristics include size and shape.

All trees require some sort of maintenance, the complexity of their maintenance will vary per species. In general, fast-growing trees require more frequent maintenance, trees with weaker wood may produce more debris due to branches breaking off from wind or storms. Additionally, if you are planting near your home or a street, you may have to prune the tree more frequently to prevent damage or dangerous view restriction. It is important to keep in mind when picking out your tree the location you are planting in. As mentioned in the previous section location is everything. Obviously, you do not want to pick a tree with a mature spread of 75ft if you live in a crowded urban neighborhood so keep in mind how much your tree will grow when picking a species and location.

Always plan for the mature size of your seedling, and know how fast it will grow. The tulip popular, our state tree, may be suitable for a yard for the first 50 years of its life, but it will eventually grow



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## LARGE TREES

*Mature Height over 50'*

Bald Cypress & Dawn Redwood  
Green Giant Arborvitae  
Red Oaks (Shumard, Southern)  
Southern Magnolia  
Sugar Maple  
White Oaks (Bur, Chinkapin)

## MEDIUM TREES

*Mature Height up to 50'*

American Yellowwood  
Black Gum (Black Tupelo)  
Elm (Lacebark, Princeton)  
Hollies (American, Foster #2)  
Magnolias (Saucer, Star, Sweetbay)  
October Glory Maple

## SMALL TREES

*Mature Height up to 30'*

Crape Myrtle  
Flowering Cherries  
Flowering Dogwoods  
Nellie R. Stevens Holly  
Redbuds  
Trident Maple, Paperbark Maple

## SHRUBS

*Mature Height up to 20'*

American Beautyberry  
Emerald Green Arborvitae  
Flowering Forsythia  
Glossy Abelia  
Schip Laurels  
Viburnums (Doublefile, Leatherleaf)

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## Final Tips

1. Beware of bugs and disease!
  - a. Some trees are prone to insects such as the Southern Pine Beetle, Japanese Beetle, and the White Pine Weevil, Gypsy Moth, and Dutch Elm disease, powdery mildew, Phytophthora root rot, and Verticillium wilt to name a few
2. Do your research!
  - a. Some people are more prone to allergies so make sure you know whether or not you are allergic to certain trees
3. Sun or shade?
  - a. Know how much sun your planting location receives and compare that to how much sun each tree species needs
4. Shape and size
  - a. Imagine your tree in 20 years or even in 50 years, will it still fit in the location you choose?

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