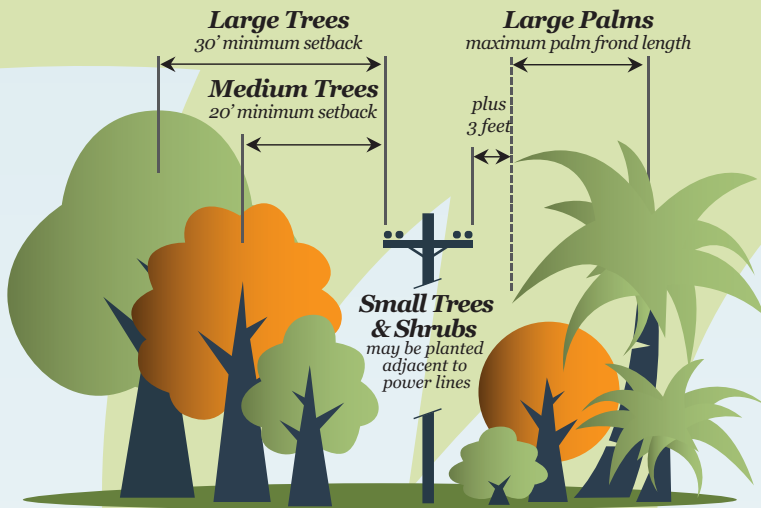


Caring For Your Trees

Trees are major assets to your home and to our community and with proper care, a life-long investment in your home and quality of life.

Right Tree, Right Place - Matching the right tree to the right place is the best way to ensure survival, reduced maintenance needs, and maximum benefits. Consider the mature size of the tree and space constraints such as overhead utility wires, nearby structures and hardscapes, and other plants.



Other considerations:

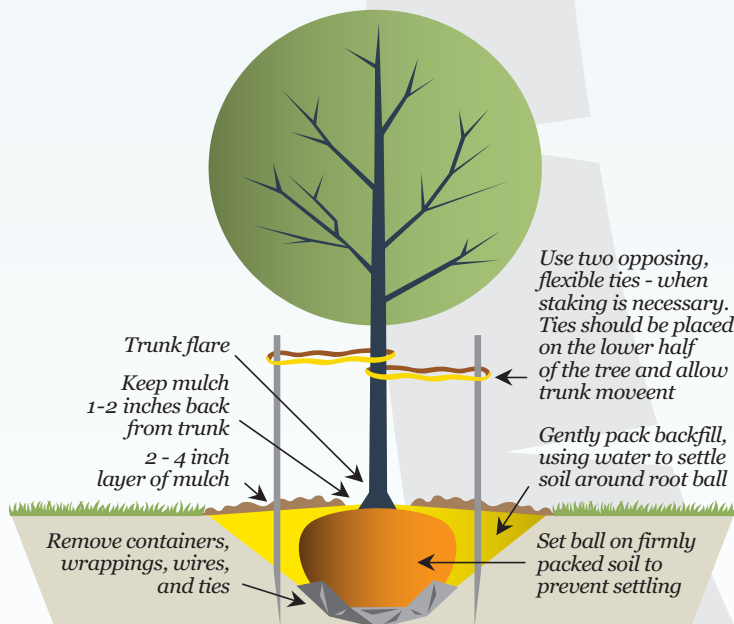
- Intended function (shade, screen, ornamental)
- Diversity - choose a species not overused in the area
- Exposure (sun, shade)
- Soil conditions
- A list of approved species for planting near power lines is available at Talgov.com/you/you-resources.aspx

Tree Care Starts at Planting - Many tree health issues can be avoided by properly planting the tree. The trunk flare, where the roots and trunk meet, should be at or slightly above grade. Water thoroughly at planting, and only stake if necessary.

Watering: Providing water when the soil is dry is the absolute best thing you can do for a tree of any age. Provide about 1-3" of water per week, including rainfall. For new trees, water directly over the root ball. Mature trees benefit from extra water during dry periods. Focus water on the "dripline," the area where the branches end.

Other Plant Health Care: Think in terms of prevention, a healthy tree can withstand pressures from pests and diseases without additional treatments.

- Watering during dry periods is essential!



- Mulch helps retain moisture in the soil, and reduce competition from other plants. Apply a 2-4 inch layer evenly extending well out from under the branches, and not touching the trunk.
- For specific problems, consult a professional arborist.

Planting New Trees - The City of Tallahassee and Leon County offer an Adopt-a-Tree program to assist residents in the planting of trees within public street rights of way. For information, visit:

City of Tallahassee Residents - Talgov.com/adoptatree

Leon County Residents - leoncountyfl.gov/adoptatree

Recognizing Risk: While only a small number of trees cause injury or property damage, every tree has the potential for risk. Recognizing common defects associated with tree risk can be helpful, but evaluating the seriousness of those defects is best done by a professional arborist. An arborist can also help to provide solutions or treatments that may help to reduce risk so that the tree does not need to be removed.

What to look for:

- 1 Regrowth from topping or other pruning.
- 2 Tree growing into electrical lines.
- 3 Broken or partially attached branch.
- 4 Open cavity in trunk or branches.
- 5 Dead or dying branches.
- 6 Branches connections too close to one another.
- 7 Decay or rot present in old wounds.
- 8 Recent changes in grade, soil level, or construction.



How to hire an Arborist - An ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Certified Arborist is someone who has demonstrated a basic knowledge of tree care through the completion of a comprehensive exam on tree trimming, care and removal. Hiring a tree service that employs ISA Certified Arborists ensures that a minimum standard of professional tree care is being met. Additionally, a Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ) Arborist is trained to assess tree risk. You can find Certified Arborists and verify ISA credentials at <http://treesaregood.com/findanarborist>.

Also check to see if the tree care company is a member of a professional organization such as the International Society of Arboriculture, American Society of Consulting Arborists, Tree Care Industry Association or the Florida Arborist Association.

Insurance - Personal and Property Damage Liability Insurance and Worker's Compensation Insurance are both very important. Ask for a certificate of insurance issued directly to you from their insurance carrier with you listed as the certificate holder. Don't accept a copy of this document as this may be out of date.

For more information, visit Talgov.com/urbanforestry for more tree care resources.