



The Benefits of Trees

We plant trees because they are beautiful, but trees provide us with many more benefits. Trees can soothe and relax us; and provide a connection to nature and our surroundings. By planting and caring for trees, you help improve your surroundings, reduce pollution, lower energy costs, improve the appearance of your community and increase the value of your property.

1. TREES COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Excess carbon dioxide (CO₂) is building up in our atmosphere, contributing to climate change. Trees absorb CO₂, removing and storing the carbon while releasing oxygen back into the air. In one year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the same amount of CO₂ produced when you drive your car 26,000 miles.

2. TREES HELP PREVENT WATER POLLUTION

Trees reduce runoff by breaking rainfall thus allowing the water to flow down the trunk and into the earth below the tree. This prevents storm water from carrying pollutants to the ocean. When mulched, trees act like a sponge that filters this water naturally and uses it to recharge groundwater supplies.

3. TREES HELP PREVENT SOIL EROSION

On hills or slopes, trees slow runoff and hold soil in place.

4. TREES CLEAN THE AIR

Trees absorb odors and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.

5. TREES PROVIDE OXYGEN

Trees emit Oxygen! Breathe!

6. TREES HEAL

Studies have shown that patients with views of trees out their windows heal faster and with less complications.. Exposure to trees and nature aids concentration by reducing mental fatigue.

7. TREES REDUCE VIOLENCE

Neighborhoods that are barren of trees have been shown to have a greater incidence of violence than their greener counterparts. Trees and landscaping help to reduce levels of fear.

8. TREES MARK THE SEASONS

Is it winter, spring, summer or autumn? Look at the trees.

9. TREES ADD UNITY

Trees as landmarks can give a neighborhood a new identity and encourage civic pride.

10. TREES COOL THE STREETS AND THE CITY

Trees shade the streets and buildings during the summer cooling them down. They also reduce wind speed which can help keep your house warmer during the winter.

11. TREES CONSERVE ENERGY

Because trees cool buildings in summer less air conditioning is used and during the winter less heating may be necessary, which creates less demand on energy production. With lower energy production comes lower carbon emissions and pollution.

12. TREES PROVIDE A CANOPY AND HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE

Sycamore and oak are among the many urban species that provide excellent urban homes for birds, bees and squirrels.

13. TREES SCREEN THINGS

Trees can mask concrete walls or parking lots, and unsightly views. They muffle sound from nearby streets and motorways, and create a calming canopy of green. Trees absorb dust and wind and reduce glare.

14. TREES PROVIDE FOOD AND WOOD

Fruit can be harvested from community orchards and gardens and shared. Wood from trees is often used in our cities for mulching our flower beds.

15. TREES INCREASE PROPERTY VALUES

The beauty of a well-planted property and its surrounding street and neighborhood can raise property values. People are far more attracted into leafy areas than those which are barren.

One large tree can supply a day's supply of oxygen for four people.

Planting Guide: Young Tree Whips

A whip is a slender, unbranched shoot or plant. This term is used in forestry to refer to unbranched young tree seedlings of approximately 0.5-1.0 m (1 ft 7 in-3 ft 3 in) in height and 2-3 years old that have been grown for planting out.

In order to plant your tree you will need: a spade, a cane and some mulch if it's growing in a grassy area.

Make sure the roots of the tree do not dry out. If it needs to be stored for a couple of days it can be left in the plastic bag in a cool place. If you need to store it for longer you should heel it in by covering the roots with soil.

Dig a hole large enough for the roots to spread out evenly. (About 1/3 bigger than the size of the roots.) Backfill with soil, gently shake the tree up and down to work the soil around the roots. Firm around the tree in stages by treading with the heel of your boot.

If it's in a windy or exposed spot or there's a possibility of your tree being disturbed, using something like a bamboo cane will help keep it upright and grow straight. Push the cane into the soil close to the stem and loosely tie together.

To limit weeds growing up around the stem, you could add some mulch to the base. Don't forget to water! Young trees may need watering in very dry spells the first couple of years!

The Best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago The second best time is now!

Create a Hedge

A hedge or hedgerow is a line of closely spaced shrubs and sometimes trees, planted and trained to form a barrier or to mark the boundary of an area.

You would plant the whips for a hedge in the same way as you would any other whip (see Planting whips above) but the

spacing is important. It is normal to plant a double row with 4 plants to the metre.

You should leave a gap of 50cm between the trees in the same row and 40-45cm between the two parallel rows in a zigzag. If there is only room for one row plant 30cm apart.

One generation plants the trees. Another gets the shade.

Native Trees of Ireland



Tree Council
of Ireland

rest of Europe. The seeds of other trees, such as willow and birch, are so light that they were blown here by the wind.

Around 12,000 years ago, Ireland was covered in snow and ice. This was known as the Ice Age. As the weather became warmer, the snow and ice melted and trees began to grow. The seeds of trees such as hazel and oak were brought here by birds and animals, across the landbridges from Britain and the

Eventually, the seas rose, the land bridges were flooded and Ireland became an island. Our native trees are the trees that reached here before we were separated from the rest of Europe. Our most common native trees include oak, ash, hazel, birch, Scots pine, rowan and willow. Eventually, people brought other trees, such as beech, sycamore, horse chestnut, spruce, larch and fir to Ireland.

Tree Council of Ireland <https://treecouncil.ie>

