

South Whitehall Township

MEMORIAL TREES

South Whitehall Township has instituted a program that allows residents to plant a tree in a Township park as a memorial.

Procedure List

What you must do:

- Contact the South Whitehall Township Parks Department with your request at (610) 398-0407.
- Mark planting location with flags provided (three choices).
- Schedule with Parks Department for excavating.
- Purchase approved plant.
- Plant tree.
- Chose wording for plaque. Optional—place plaque at base of tree.

What the Township will do:

- Approve suggested donation and location.
- Place PA One call prior to digging.
- Excavate hole for planting.
- Place plaque in display case at Covered Bridge Park.

1. Purchasing The Tree: Suggested Tree Species

Small Trees and Shrubs:

- Striped maple, *Acer pensylvanicum* (native)
- Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (native)
- Flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida* (native)
- Kousa dogwood, *Cornus kousa*
- Forsythia, *Forsythia x intermedia*
- Mountain laurel, *Kalmia latifolia* (native)

Medium to Large Trees:

- Red maple, *Acer rubrum* (native)
- Sugar maple, *Acer saccharum* (native)
- Hedge maple, *Acer campestre*
- Honey locust, *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*
- Yellow birch, *Betula alleghaniensis* (native)
- American beech, *Fagus grandifolia* (native)
- White ash, *Fraxinus americana* (native)

Butternut, *Juglans cinerea* (native)
Black-gum, *Nyssa sylvatica* (native)
Black walnut, *Juglans nigra* (native)
Sycamore, *Plantanus occidentalis* (native)
Scarlet oak, *Quercus coccinea*
Shingle oak, *Quercus imbricaria*
Red oak, *Quercus rubra*
White oak, *Quercus alba* (native)
Chestnut oak, *Quercus prinus* (native)
American elm, *Ulmus Americana* (native)
Little leaf linden, *Tilia cordata*
Crimean linden, *Tilia x euchlora*
Sourgum, *Nyssa sylvatica*
Willow, *Salix alias*

Evergreens:

Eastern white pine, *Pinus strobus* (native)
White spruce, *Picea glauca*
Norway spruce, *Picea abies*
Hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis* (native)

Please feel free to suggest alternatives. The Parks Department will consider all suggestions.

2. Purchasing The Tree: Choosing a Quality Tree

When it comes to buying trees, a Penn State horticulturist suggests consumers treat a tree purchase with the same care they would use when buying a new car--after all, chances are the tree will be around longer than the car.

"While an ornamental tree is nowhere near the price of a new car, you can save time, money and frustration by making sure your new tree is top quality," says J. Robert Nuss, professor of ornamental horticulture in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Nuss suggests inspecting the tree's general appearance first. The trunk should be reasonably straight and the crown of the tree should be symmetrical. "When you closely examine the crown, no branches should extend from the trunk at angles less than 45 degrees," Nuss explains. "Narrow branch angles can cause structural problems as the tree grows."

Close observation of the tree's trunk can reveal problem areas that are easily recognizable, even to the greenest of gardeners. He suggests shoppers look for:

Damage: Check for signs of cuts, scrapes or recent pruning. "A wound that is more than a quarter of the trunk's circumference is too large and can affect future health."

Flaws. Look for areas that are discolored, sunken or swollen, all of which indicate problems beneath the bark.

Borer damage: "Check for small circular holes in the bark," Nuss says.

Cracks. Frost damage can result in shallow cracks in the bark.

Nuss adds that the general size of the tree can be an accurate indication of quality. By measuring the trunk diameter at six inches above ground level and the size of the root ball, shoppers can estimate how tall the tree should be.

Nuss offers some general guidelines to estimate tree growth and health.

A trunk diameter of 1½ inches translates to a tree between nine and 13 feet tall. The root ball should be at least 20 inches in diameter.

A trunk diameter of two inches translates to a tree between 13 and 15 feet tall. The root ball should be at least 24 inches in diameter.

A 3-inch trunk diameter should be found on a tree between 14 and 16 feet tall. The root ball should be at least 32 inches in diameter.

The size of the root ball should be roughly proportional to the crown, or area of branch spread, of the tree. "If the root ball is too small, it may not have enough roots to establish the tree," he says.

"Also, feel the surface of the root ball on trees that have been balled and burlapped," Nuss advises. "The root ball should be firm and solid. Check for pruned roots and girdling roots, which are roots that wrap around the lower trunk. Girdling roots are often found about half an inch below the soil line.

"Once you buy the tree, it's important to care for it," Nuss says. "Plant it as soon as you get home. If that's not possible, make sure to keep the root ball out of the sun and keep the burlap moist."

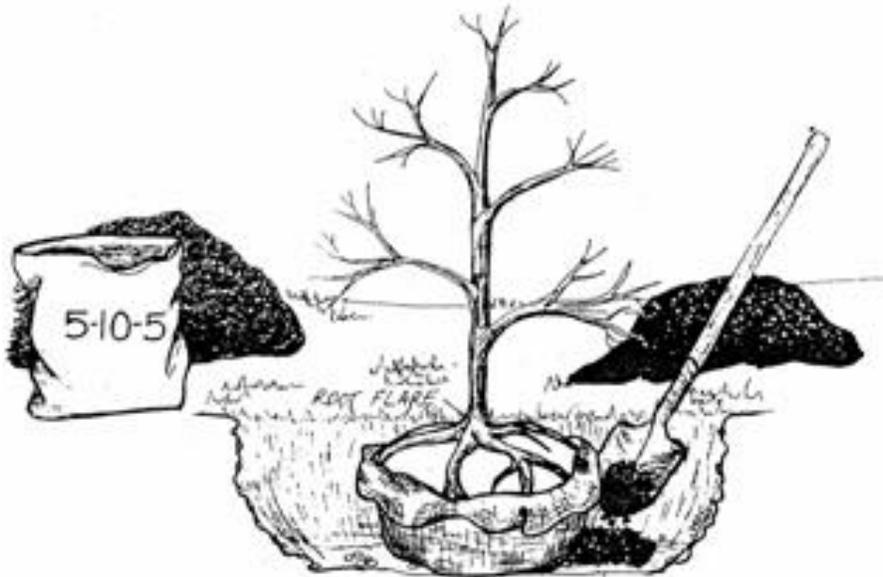
From Penn State AgSci News 9/4/97

3. Planting a Tree

Planting

Dig planting hole

2-2 ½ times wider than the rootball same depth as rootball without disturbing the bottom of the hole. It is important to set the plant onto solid ground so it will not settle.



Remove

- wire basket
- all synthetic burlap
- top third of natural burlap

tree wrap
twine from base of tree

Set tree

straight in hole
with root flare at finished grade
on undisturbed ground

Backfill hole

Eliminate air pockets by either stamping or watering to settle soil. Do not compact.
Completely fill hole to existing finished grade.

Finished Planting

Water

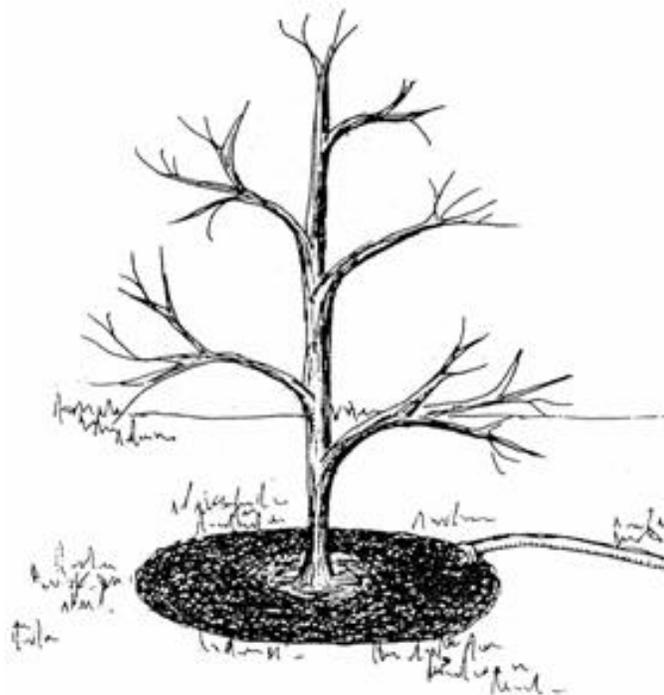
initially saturate planting hole
frequently for 2-3 weeks, allowing soil to dry out between waterings
only in morning

monitor plant and water only if needed

Remove stakes (if used) within 6-12 months. Guy wires or staking are not recommended for most trees. These supports may be considered when trees are planted on an unstable slope or in a high wind area.

Mulch

Suitable materials include shredded bark, wood chips, peat moss, or leaf litter
maximum 2-3 inches deep, not in contact with trunk.



4. Creating the Plaque: Suggested Wording

Township Supplied Plaque:

1"



3"

