

Picking the Right Tree

Trees are a wonderful addition to any landscape and can serve as a valuable investment for homeowners. A well placed tree has the potential to benefit people in numerous ways including: acting as windbreak, controlling erosion, providing shade, limiting unwanted sound, serving as a border or screen, reducing air pollution, and providing immense aesthetic value to the landscape for many years. To make all of these things possible however, you must consider what it is you are looking for out of your tree, select the right one for the situation, and then plant it in the right location.

Things to Think About

After considering the reasons above and determining why it is that you would like a tree, there are several other factors to consider to make sure that the tree you select is a perfect match for the situation. Firstly, it is important to consider the climate in which you live, ensuring that the tree you select will thrive for years to come. Then, consider the space you have to work with. There is no sense in planting a tree and watching it grow into a beautiful specimen only to cut it down several years later because it has outgrown its space. Therefore, consider the ultimate size the tree will get and if it will have adequate room in the spot you would like it.

Next, consider the site in which you would like to plant the tree. Things to look for at the site include: what type of soil is present? Will the tree get full sun, partial shade, full shade? Is it an area where the soil is particularly wet or dry? Will the tree be exposed to a lot of wind? Is the site along a roadside i.e. will it get exposed to excess amounts of salt? These factors may affect the ideal tree for a given location as they will certain trees may thrive under conditions where other varieties will not.

Furthermore, a well placed tree can actually save a homeowner money. Trees increase property value and can also potentially save money on energy bills by blocking the wind in winter and providing shade in the summer, given they are planting in the right location.

Finally, if the main purpose of the tree is to provide aesthetic value to the landscape, what type of aesthetic value are you looking for? Is it beautiful autumn foliage? How about fragrant, showy flowers in the spring? Is there a particular shape you are after? Trees have the potential to provide several attributes to a landscape, it is just a matter of choosing what is important to you.

There is no perfect tree, but with proper planning and a well thought out landscape design, there may indeed be the perfect tree for your particular situation.

Filling the Proper Niche

Once you decide what it is you are looking for in your tree, the next step is to know what varieties of trees will fill that void. Below are a list of situations and landscaping goals followed by a list of trees that are known for those particular attributes:

Shade Tolerant: American Hornbeam, Canadian Hemlock, Eastern Redbud, Fringe Tree, Katsura, Paperbark Maple, Serviceberry, Sourwood, Sweetbay Magnolia

Drought Tolerant: American Hornbeam, Bald Cypress, Blackgum, Colorado Blue Spruce, Ginkgo, Hawthorn, Kentucky Coffeetree, some Maple's (Norway, Red, Silver), some Oak's (Bur, Pin, Sawtooth, Shumard), some Pine's (Austrian, Scotch, White), Silver Linden, Sourwood, Thornless Honeylocust, Turkish Filbert, Yellowwood
*Please note that all trees need adequate moisture when they are young. These varieties are only drought tolerant once they are established.

Wet Sites: Bald Cypress, Dawn Redwood, Kentucky Coffeetree, London Plane Tree, Pin Oak, Red Maple, Riverbirch, Swamp White Oak, Sweetbay Magnolia, Sugar Maple, Sweetgum, Sycamore, most Willow varieties

Wind Tolerant: Austrian Pine, European Hornbeam, Ginkgo, most Linden's, some Maple's (Norway, Red, Sugar), most Oak's, Thornless Honeylocust

Heavy (Clay) Soils: Bald Cypress, Hawthorn, London Plane Tree, Red Maple, Redbuds, Riverbirch, Spruce, Sweetgum, Thornless Honeylocust, Willow's

Compacted Soil: Bald Cypress, Pin Oak, River Birch, Swamp White Oak

Salt Tolerant: Amur Maple, Black Gum Bur Oak, Ginkgo, Kentucky Coffeetree, Norway Maple, Pin Oak, Red Oak, Swamp White Oak, Thornless Honeylocust

Windbreaks: Due to the importance of having foliage in the winter, evergreen varieties are typically recommended as wind breaks. Several different varieties of Pine, Spruce, and larger varieties of Arborvitae will make effective windbreaks.

Fragrant Blossoms: Crabapples, Flowering Cherry, Fringe Tree, Kentucky Coffeetree, Sweetbay Magnolia

Ornamental Berries: American Holly, Crabapples, Dogwoods, Hawthorns,

Showy Bark: Birches, Japanese Maple, Lacebark Elm, London Plane Tree, Paperbark Maple, Serviceberry, Sycamore

Less Susceptible to Deer Damage: Bald Cypress, Beeches, Birches, Dogwoods, Honey locust, Hornbeams, Maples, Oaks, Redbuds, Sweet Gum, Sycamores, Tulip, Willows

Attract Birds: Black Gum, Dogwoods, Crabapples, Fringe Tree, Hawthorns, Maples, River Birch, Spruces, White Pine

Attracts Hummingbirds: Cherry, Crabapples, Hawthorns, Plums, Tulip Poplar

Fast Growing: Bald Cypress, Bradford Pear, Lacebark Elm, Pin Oak, Red Maple, River Birch, Sweet Gum, Tulip Poplar

Flowers

White: Cherries, Crabapples, Flowering Dogwood, Fringe Tree, Hawthorns, Japanese Lilac, Magnolias, Serviceberry,

Blue/Violet: Purple Smoke Tree

Yellow: Cornelian Cherry, Tulip Tree

Pink/Lavender: Cherries, Magnolias, Pink Crabapples, Pink Flowering Dogwoods, Redbud

Red: Red Crabapples, Red Maple

Autumn Foliage:

Gold: Cherokee Chief Dogwood, Sunburst Honeylocust, Tricolor Dogwood

Orange: Black Gum, Hawthorn, Katsura

Red: Dogwoods, Maples, Hornbeams, Red Oak, Serviceberry, Sourwood

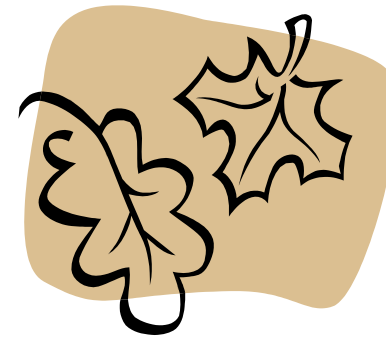
Red/Purple: Crabapples, Common Chokeberry, European Beech, Japanese Maple, Norway Maple

Yellow: Birches, Elms, Ginkgo, Honeylocust, Kentucky Coffeetree, Redbud, Sweet gum, Tulip Tree, Yellowwood

We at Bennett's are here everyday to give "Helping Hand Hints" personally, one on one. Many gardening problems are very specific, and we couldn't possibly cover all aspects in these pamphlets. Any time you have a specific problem or need help, feel free to call. It's our job to help you be successful in your growing endeavors, and we thoroughly enjoy giving you a "helping hand."



Helping Hand Hints



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BENNETT'S
3651 McCarty Lane
Lafayette, IN 47905
NURSERY DEPARTMENT
Phone: 765-447-7636
www.bennettsgreenhouse.com