

With cooler temperatures and wet weather, fall is a great time to freshen up your yard with a new tree. Follow these tips to get the most out of your investment:

- Choose the right tree species for your site. Is there space for the tree to grow to its anticipated mature size? Is the soil adequate? Will the tree get the right amount of sun?
- Pay attention to the condition of the trees at the nursery. Are there wounds and blemishes on the trunk? Does the tree look nice overall or is it a bit shabby? Is there one, strong center leader? Avoid trees with multiple trunks or trunks that are misshapen.
- Take your time planting. Dig a good hole that is two to three times the diameter of the root mass and only as deep as the container. Make sure the root collar is just above the surface of the soil when planting is complete. Mulch to a depth of two to three inches, being careful not to put mulch up against the trunk.
- Invest in early tree care to ensure your tree gets off to a good start. This may include watering, deer protection, and young tree training, but avoid fertilizer. Young tree training is something you may want to leave to experts (certified arborists). Mature trees need TLC too. It's a wise investment to have your trees checked out by a certified arborist periodically to detect potential problems before they become severe.

Getting trees off to the best start possible maximizes your investment and helps our City maintain it's healthy tree canopy