

How to plant a tree for successful growth

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Spring Home Improvement 16

More sunlight and warm temperatures frequently inspire homeowners to spend more time in the great outdoors during spring and summer.

Outdoor projects often top homeowners' to-do lists in spring and summer, with gardens and landscapes taking center stage. Planting more trees around the yard is one popular project that can improve property value and benefit the environment.

Why plant trees?

There are plenty of reasons to plant trees. Trees provide a natural form of shade, reducing air temperature by blocking the sun's rays. This can reduce reliance on air conditioning systems and make it more comfortable to spend time outdoors during the summer.

North Carolina State University College of Agriculture & Life Sciences says trees absorb and block noise and reduce glare. They also can trap dust, pollen and smoke. Trees also absorb carbon dioxide and potentially harmful gasses from the air. One large



Learn the right way to plant a tree to improve the landscape and the environment.

tree can supply a day's worth of oxygen for as many as four people, while also storing 13 pounds of carbon per year.

Getting started

Visit a garden center or nursery and select a tree that will be hardy in your planting

zone. Choosing native trees can increase the likelihood that the new tree will adapt to its surroundings. Also, inspect trees to determine if they're healthy before taking them home. Look for evidence of root girdling, which occurs when the roots circle around the perimeter of the container and surround the trunk. Trees should not have any dead or dormant branches.

The DIY Network suggests locating the tree where it can thrive. This means selecting a spot that can make it easier for the tree to grow tall and wide. Avoid planting near the house, where roots can crack concrete or asphalt, and always plant away from underground pipes.

Planting the tree

Now it is time to amend the soil. It's not enough to enrich only the soil in the hole where the tree will be placed. Move out into a circular area beyond where the roots will start so that roots can expand and properly anchor the tree. The next method of success is to ensure that the tree has a large enough hole to contain

the existing root ball and allow for roots to grow and expand. Better Homes and Gardens experts say to prepare a hole that is two to three times as wide as the root ball of the tree. Treat the root ball gently. If the roots are wrapped in burlap, remove the burlap or push it to the bottom of the hole.

Backfill the hole with soil and check that the tree is straight. Stake the tree to help it stay upright and straight until the roots anchor it more

effectively. A layer of mulch around the base of the tree can prevent weeds and reduce water loss. Water daily for several weeks until the roots have fanned out.

It's best to leave trees be for the first growing season, only removing broken or diseased limbs. Resist pruning and shaping until the tree has survived its first growing season.

Tools of the home renovator's trade



Home renovation projects can be both exciting and tricky. Do-it-yourselfers are inspired by designs showcased in magazines, websites and their own communities. When DIY enthusiasts see a design they like, it's understandable that they may want to emulate these looks at home.

Remodeling is one of the larger DIY undertakings, and it goes beyond simple carpentry. Considering demolition, reconstruction, electrical, plumbing, and masonry work may be part of the DIY package, homeowners who are thinking about renovations must first stock up on the tools and other supplies of the trade. Having the right tools can mean the difference between a job well done and a job that needs to be redone.

• Crowbar or prybar: Before you can put in new construction, you might have to

get your hands dirty with some demolition. Crowbars or prybars can be used to pry up wood slats, remove nails or remove old decking.

• Tool pouch: A tool and fastener pouch gives DIYers a place other than their pockets to store fasteners and hand tools. Pouches can be attached to tool belts for added storage capacity.

• Stud finder: Invest in a more fool-proof method of locating studs behind dry-wall then knocking on the wall. Stud finders can provide a picture of studs, pipes and other hidden items inside an entire length of wall. This is essential to driving nails where they belong and can also prevent sending fasteners into wires or nearby plumbing.

• Level: A level is an essential tool for everyone from casual decorators to more involved renovators. Whether hanging pictures or

ensuring molding is parallel, levels are must-have tools for DIYers.

• Safety glasses: Invest in a pair of safety glasses so no one working on a project deals with obstructed vision. Safety glasses also provide ample eye protection.

• Extension cords: If power tools are part of the renovation picture, extension cords can safely extend power where it is needed. Be sure to invest in a gauge that is large enough to handle the amperage of your most powerful tool.

• Measuring tape: The "measure twice, cut once" mantra is key to home improvements. To measure accurately each and every time, no tool chest is complete without a sturdy measuring tape.

• Ladder varieties: Home improvements aren't always at ground level. Purchase ladders of various heights so you can safely reach various areas of the home and avoid injury. Step stools, a step ladder and an extension ladder all have their purposes on the job.

• Digital inspection scope: A scope lets you see inside walls, floors and ceilings to find the exact location of pipes, wires and joists. It also can be used to seek out the source of clogged drains or anywhere you desire sight into hard-to-manuever areas.



Sweet Pickins

Home Decor • Clothing Boutique
Stop in & see our store in Wadena

LOOKING for a unique personalized gift?...

Farmhouse Theme Decor

Hand crafted, customized home decor

204 Jefferson St. N., WADENA ~ 218-289-0109

Dreamscapes

Greenhouse Opening April 28th!

Let Greener Tomorrows design and build your outdoor living space!

Landscape Services Include:
Retaining Walls, Stairs/Steps, Pavers, Patios, Shrubs, Sidewalks, Sodding, Seeding

Established 1980
Greener Tomorrows
528 2nd St. SE, Menahga, MN 56464
564-4909 • 218-371-8069
www.GreenerTomorrows.com
Your Complete Landscape Service

new SkyBell® Video Doorbell

SkyBell Video Doorbell lets you see, hear, and speak to visitors, whether you're at home, at work, or on the go.

It works on its own, but if you have a Honeywell Lyric Security System, it integrates with the Total Connect app for ease!

***For a limited time—only \$199!**
Call for Details Today!

SPRING BUILDING SPECIALS

Beat the June 1st increase

Do it Once & Do it Right

Deluxe Pre-Finished – Zero Maintenance Storage Building



Model on Display

No Hidden Costs!

• All Material • All Labor • All Concrete • All Pre-Finished

- Stud Frame Walls
- Commercial Rated Trusses 4' On Center
- Colored Sidewall & Roof Steel w/Wainscott
- Two Insulated overhead Doors
- Built Completely by Licensed & Insured Contractors
- Aluminum Soffits
- 4" Concrete Slab
- (2) 4' x 3' Vinyl Insulated Sliding Windows
- (1) 36" Insulated Steel Service Door, Painted
- 2' x 4' Purlins
- 100 Mile Radius of Wadena
- Ready to Insulate

24' x 30' x 8'	\$ 19,112.00
32' x 40' x 9'	\$ 24,800.00
<i>Model shown above</i>	
32' x 48' x 10'	\$ 30,961.00
36' x 48' x 12'	\$ 35,294.00
36' x 54' x 14'	\$ 41,326.00
40' x 60' x 12'	\$ 45,694.00

Other Sizes Available Upon Request
All of your building needs



MERICKEL LUMBER & DESIGN CENTER

218-631-3570 • 800-225-3570

M-F 8-5 • Sat 8-12 • HWY. 10 WEST • WADENA, MN 56482

www.MerickelLumber.com



800-945-2163 | 218-837-5151 | www.wcta.net
*Professional installation fee not included in pricing.