

WINTER CARE



Don't forget to water. Trees require water in the winter as much as they do during the summer. If temperatures permit, the occasional winter watering for your young trees can help them last through the season. When watering during the winter, choose a time when the soil and trees are cool but not frozen.

Mulch! Mulch helps trees retain water and reduces the temperature fluctuations in the soil. A thin layer of mulch will act as a blanket over your tree's roots and protect them from any harsh temperatures we receive this winter.

Shoveling. If you live in an area where shoveling snow is a must, watch for trunks and limbs in order to avoid hitting them with a sharp blade or shovel. Also, avoid tossing snow with salt, from the sidewalks, near your tree.

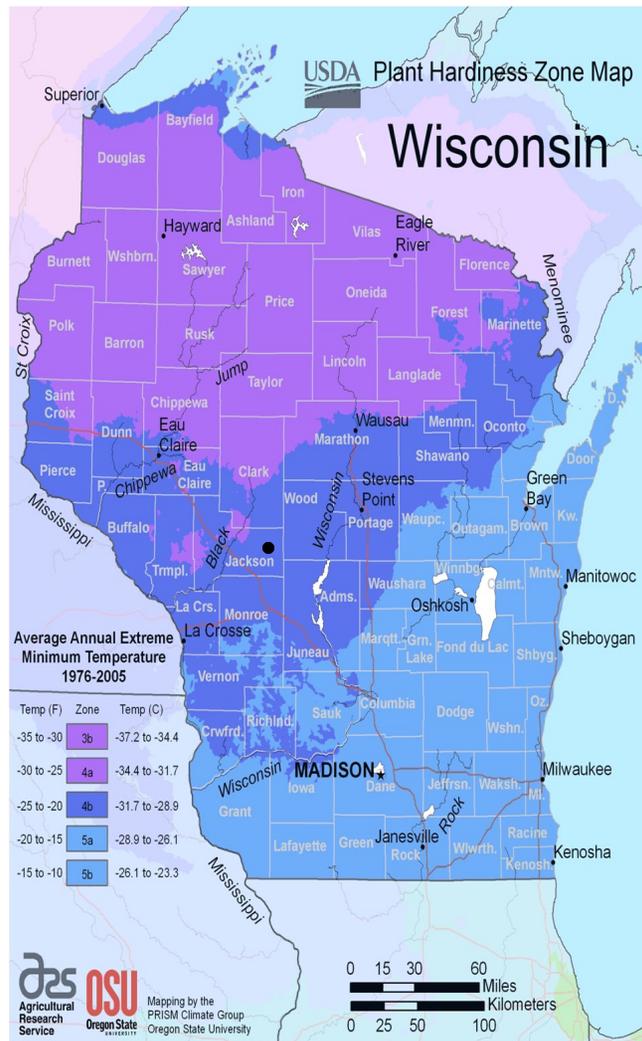
Pruning. During cooler temperatures is the best time to prune your trees. Trees are dormant during the colder months and with no leaves, it's easier to see a tree's structure.

Holiday Lights. Make sure to remove tree light cords from trees each holiday season and replace them only when needed again. If cords are left wrapped around branches or trunks, they can girdle the tree by cutting in to the bark and creating suffocation of wood tissues. This is especially important on younger trees that are still growing in height and girth.



HARDINESS ZONE

The USDA plant hardiness zone is particularly useful when you are planting trees, shrubs or perennials. These plants need to be hardy enough to survive the winter temperatures in your area. Knowing your zone will help you make the best decisions when it comes time to select trees and plants. Tomah, WI is located in zone 4b (see dot on map). For more information on hardiness zones, visit www.arborday.org and search "hardiness zone".



CITY OF TOMAH TREE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE



City of Tomah
FOREST ADVISORY BOARD
Parks and Recreation Department

819 Superior Avenue, Tomah WI 54660 608-374-7445 / 608-317-9570

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Urban Forest Grant

SUCCESSFUL TREE PLANTING TIPS

Step 1 → Call Before You Dig!

Contact Diggers Hotline at

1-800-242-8511

Step 2 → Determine where the root collar/flare is located within the root ball.

Step 3 → Dig a planting space two to three times wider than the root ball, but no deeper. To determine proper planting depth, measure the distance from the bottom of the root ball to the root collar.



Step 4 → Before placing a tree in its planting space, remove all tags, ribbons, and trunk guard. To avoid root damage, don't drag or lift the tree by the trunk. Gently guide the tree into the planting hole.

Step 5 → Remove twine, clip and fold back wire basket and trim burlap. If left on, this material can girdle the tree. Note: If planting a containerized tree remove the entire pot.

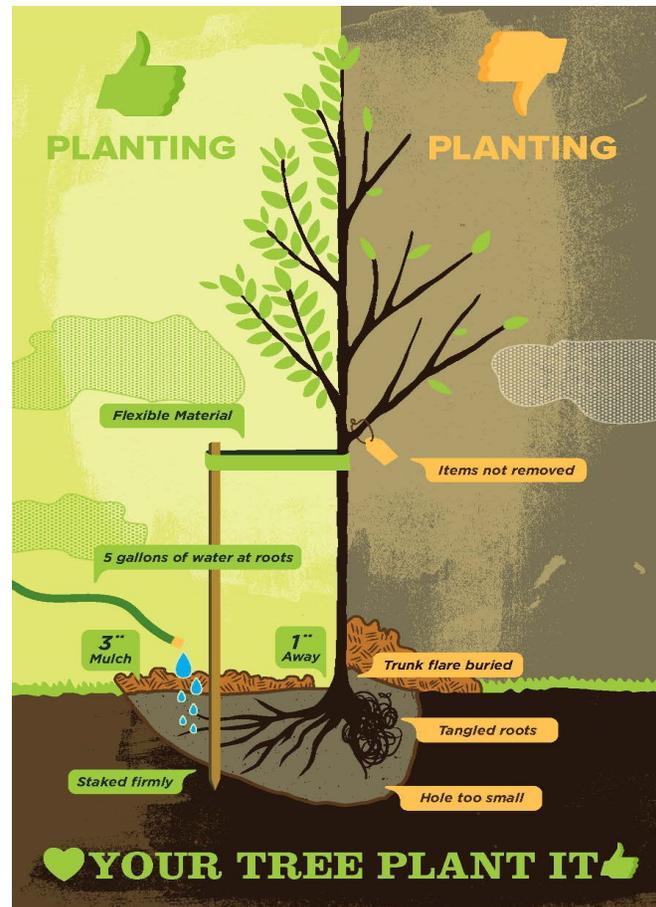
Step 6 → Carefully remove soil from the top of the root ball to expose the root collar. Check to see that the root collar is either level with or 1" to 2" above finished grade. Planting a tree too deep can kill it!

Step 7 → Back fill planting space with soil. Water thoroughly to eliminate air pockets. Do not tamp!

Step 8 → Celebrate a job well done ... a properly planted tree!



PLANT MORE TREES!



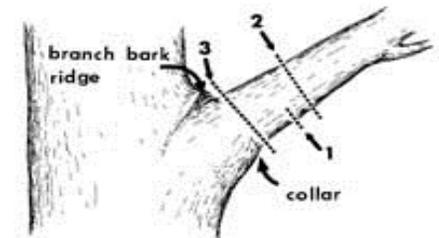
CARING FOR YOUR TREE

Watering- Tree watering is a key part of tree care. Below are a few guidelines that will help you properly water your trees.

- For new trees, water immediately after you plant a tree.
- During the first few summers of your new trees life, it will have a difficult time dealing with heat and drought. You can make this easier by providing water and covering the soil with wood-chip mulch.
- After your tree has been established in your yard for two years the roots will be established. This will allow your tree to withstand a wider range of water conditions including on its own because it has a proper root structure.

Staking- Most newly planted trees do need to be staked. Use wide webbing straps and secure webbing to stakes with heavy gauge wire. Attach materials so that the tree is allowed to move in the wind.

Proper Pruning- Less is better, newly planted trees need all the leaves they can get. Remove only dead, broken, diseased or rubbing branches. Follow the 3 step tree pruning method demonstrated in the picture below.



Mulching- Mulch improves soil structure and aeration, keeps roots moist, controls weeds, and keeps lawnmowers and trimmers away from the trunk. To properly mulch, apply 2" to 4" of woody mulch (aged wood chips, shredded bark or something similar) over the root zone. Make sure to pull the mulch 1" to 3" away from the trunk.