



## TREES FOR HOMEOWNERS

The Maple Grove Arbor Committee was established in 1985 as an advisory board to work in cooperation with the city to enhance the environment of Maple Grove through the city-wide planting of trees, shrubs and flowers. With the 1986 completion of the City Arboretum at 9400 Fernbrook Ln as its first major project, the Arbor Committee remains active today with on-going goals and completed projects that include:

1. Acting as an educational resource for residents of the community, especially important today with the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer
2. Promoting the Tree Steward Program for the City's public property
3. Encouraging appropriate residential landscaping
4. Maintaining and increasing the planting of commercial and industrial areas
5. Continuing to work with MNDot on the planting of the freeway system in Maple Grove
6. Encouraging good forest management at all levels within our city
7. Assuring continued protection of the city's Tree Preservation Areas
8. Planting trees along all major roadways
9. Completion of a five-year inventory of public and front lawn privately owned trees
10. Annual buckthorn removal from the Vicksburg Tree Preservation Area
11. Sponsorship of the annual Arbor Day Event held at the Community Center

To help further these goals, the Arbor Committee has established a list of suggested trees for planting by commercial, industrial and residential developers, and by individual homeowners. With information drawn from professionals in the landscaping and arboriculture fields, it represents varieties of trees most suited to the climate and soil conditions of Maple Grove to best provide a healthy and attractive urban forest. Developers and homeowners are encouraged to use this list in making their tree choices. The list is available online from the City at <https://www.maplegrovern.gov/about/boards-and-commissions/arbor-committee/resources>.

The Arbor Committee has also prepared a set of guidelines for properly selecting, planting and maintaining trees in the home landscape. These guidelines should be used in addition to the expert advice of a qualified landscape architect or landscape designer.

Questions regarding the recommended tree list or planting guidelines can be made to the Arbor Committee either by calling the committee city liaison, Kelly Matzke, at 763-494-6365, or by email at [kmatzke@maplegrovern.gov](mailto:kmatzke@maplegrovern.gov)



# Landscape Design, Planning and Maintenance Guidelines

## Single-Family Residential Properties

### Selection

*General:* Trees should be selected from the attached Arbor Committee Suggested Tree Varieties for Our Community. Varieties not listed are not considered for general use because they exhibit one or more of the following undesirable characteristics:

- \*overly susceptible to insect pests or disease
- \*easily suffer winter damage
- \*are already extensively planted in Maple Grove
- \*have shallow root systems that may lift pavement or not be desirable in your lawn
- \*difficult to transplant
- \*have messy or offensive smelling fruits
- \*break easily in high wind

*Planting near pavement:* Trees planted adjacent to pavement should have a good tolerance to drought, heat and exposure to salt if the pavement is treated with salt in the winter.

*Size:* Selected varieties should grow to a mature size in scale to the existing structure.

*Diversity:* Developers shall plant no more than 20% of any one variety in a development. Individual homeowners are asked to follow the same requirement to ensure that no more than 20% of the trees in their neighborhood are of one variety. This guideline was established to mitigate future impact from invasive insects.

### Placement

*Consider mature size:* Make certain that the height and width of a mature tree will not interfere with overhead wires, adjacent plantings and buildings, or the effectiveness of existing street lights. Consider your neighbors and their feelings on a tree that overhangs a property line.

*Easements and Rights-of-Way:* Be cautious of planting in a utility right-of-way as future work may result in damage or removal of the tree. Maple Grove prohibits planting within a street right-of-way.

*Corner Lots:* Per City Ordinance, trees shall not be planted inside a triangle having two 30-foot long legs, one along each property line, and the line that connects these two legs.

*Condition of Tree at Planting:* The tree trunk should be free of mechanical damage. It's recommended that all metal or plastic banding materials should be removed from the root ball. Ensure that the root ball remains intact so that roots aren't damaged. More complete planting instructions that include potted and bare root trees can be found at the University of Minnesota website - <https://extension.umn.edu/how/planting-and-transplanting-trees-and-shrubs>

*Maintenance:* In general, newly planted trees need approximately 1" of rain or the equivalent of watering each week. Because much of the soil in Maple Grove is clay, actual watering should be adjusted for the homeowners' specific soil type and conditions. Young, smooth bark should be protected with commercial tree wrap in winter to prevent sun-scald. Consider a hardware cloth "fence" around each tree if mice or rabbits are a problem in your yard, and mulch to prevent lawnmower and weed trimmer damage. Properly applied, mulch will restrict weed growth while holding moisture and helping stabilize ground temperature. Be certain, however, that the mulch does not pile against the trunk of the tree.