

# Right Tree, Right Place

A well-landscaped yard should not only focus on the aesthetics of the plantings but also the sustainability. Trees are long-lived and the biggest investment you'll make in home plantings. Good planning at the beginning can save a lot of time and trouble over the years. A few things homeowners should consider when planting trees:

## Right Tree, Right Place:

*not every tree is a good choice for your yard or for the location.*

- Research the mature height and spread of your choices before purchasing. Having to constantly trim a tree to contain its size isn't good for your workload or the tree. When planting, place the tree in a location where it has room to reach its mature size.
- Don't plant too close to your home. Damage can be caused by branches rubbing against your house or roots interfering with your foundation or utility lines.
- Know where your utilities are located, including the water line to your home. ALWAYS call before you dig – Gopher State One Call, 651-454-0002. Also, look up! Don't plant a tree that is going to be tall under or close to a power line.
- Trees planted in certain locations can save you money. For reduced heating and cooling costs – west is best. Trees planted on the west side of a home shade the home from the hot afternoon sun and the bitter winter winds. Planting trees on the north and east sides are also good for your pocketbook. Leave the south side of your home open to the sun to take advantage of passive solar heating in the winter.

# The Many Benefits of Trees...

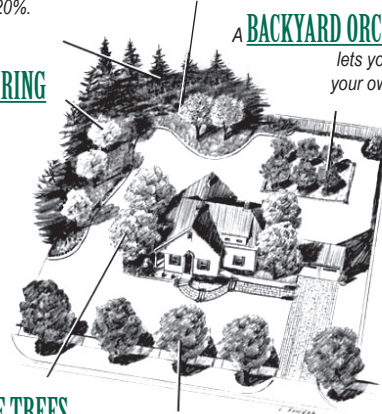
**TREES** around your home can increase its value up to 15% or more. The trees you plant remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the air, produce oxygen, and give songbirds a home. Trees provide many other benefits:

A **WINDBREAK** can lower heating bills 10-20%.

**NUT TREES** can be incorporated into windbreaks or serve as shade trees.

A **BACKYARD ORCHARD** lets you grow your own fruit.

Many **FLOWERING TREES** also produce food for wildlife.



**SHADE TREES** planted east and west of your home can cut cooling costs 15-35%.

**STREET TREES** shade the concrete and help cool the entire neighborhood.

For more information please contact:

Environmental Resource Specialist

Phone 952.227.1133

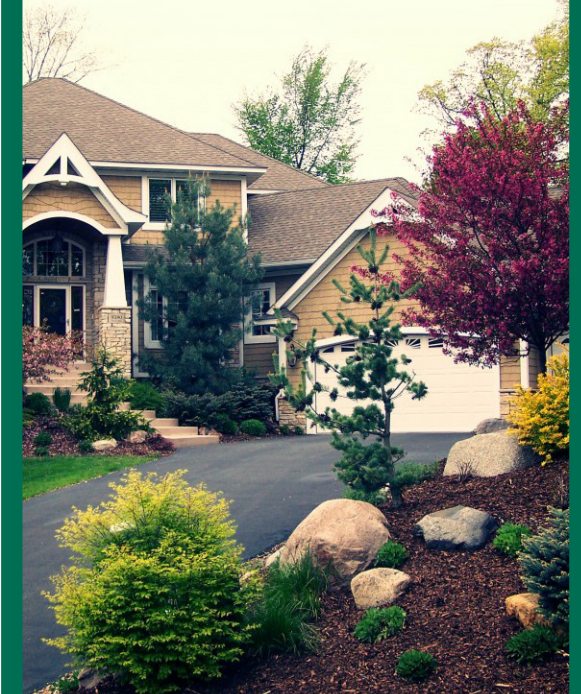


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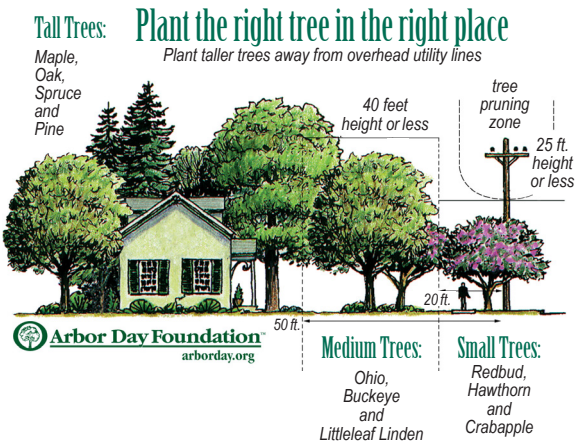
# A Resident's Guide: HOME LANDSCAPING



# 10-20-30 Rule for Sustainable Landscape

Follow the 10-20-30 rule. Diversity, even on a residential lot, is the key to a healthy, sustainable landscape. Planting too many trees of one kind leaves a property owner vulnerable to the expense and work associated with pest and disease problems. The 10-20-30 rule helps to keep diversity high and vulnerability low.

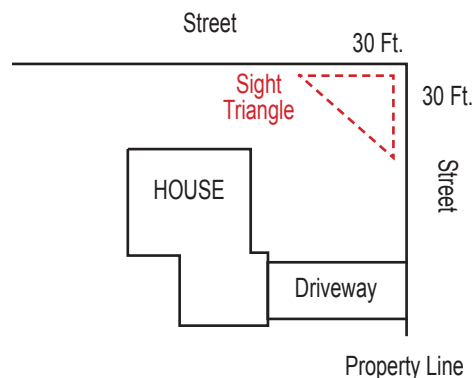
- Plant no more than 10% of any one species. Inventory your yard to see what you have. You don't want to find that there is only one species of tree in your yard – all green ash or Autumn Blaze maple.
- Plant no more than 20% of any one genus. Perhaps you have different kinds of trees in your yard, but upon closer inspection you find that they are an Autumn Blaze maple, a sugar maple, and a silver maple. These are all from the same genus – maple. Your yard is at risk from too many trees from one genus.
- Plant no more than 30% from any one family. To determine this you may have to do a little research. Also, if you avoid over planting in a genus, you can be pretty sure you're also avoiding over planting within a family.



# Drainage and Utility Easement

Every residential property contains a drainage and utility easement around the perimeter of the lot. The property within this easement is owned by the homeowner; however, the city and utility companies are permitted to use the easement for drainage swales, storm sewers, water lines, or any other utility such as telephone, cable tv, gas and electric lines. Generally the easement runs along the property line and is 5 feet wide on the sides and 10 feet wide in the front and rear. The City recommends landscaping outside the easement. Keep in mind that your plantings could be damaged or removed if work needs to be done in the easement. Additionally, trees and shrubs, unless suited to wet conditions, usually don't do well in drainage swales and could create drainage problems if they impede the natural flow of water. Other easements could be located on your property. If you are unsure, call the City Engineering Department at 952-227-1160 prior to planting a tree or shrub or grading your yard.

On corner lots, plantings are limited to 30-inches in height within the sight triangle. As the diagram below illustrates, the sight triangle is located by measuring 30 feet in each direction from the intersection of the two curb lines. This area must be kept clear for good visibility for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.



# Street Right-of-Way for Your Property

Along the front of your property, parallel to the street, lies the street right-of-way. This area is actually owned by the public, but maintained by the homeowner. The right-of-way on most properties covers the first 10-15 feet from the curb. Planting outside of this area will save your plants from snowplow damage, salt and sand build-up, and generally harsh conditions along a boulevard.

