Tree Rebate Program

City of SCOTTSBLUFF
A Place of Opportunity

The City of Scottsbluff offers a 50% rebate ($150 maximum) for trees planted by Scottsbluff property owners that meet the program requirements. This program is designed to encourage residents and businesses to plant trees to improve their property, as well as enhance the community.

Program Requirements

- Tree must be planted within Scottsbluff city limits.
- Decidious trees must have a caliper (diameter) of 0.5" to 2".
- Evergreen trees must be a minimum height of 4'.
- Tree must be planted according to approved guidelines.
- Trees must be purchased & planted March 25th to June 7th OR August 15th to October 15th.
- Tree must be one of those listed in the program by the Park, Cemetery, & Tree Board.
- Tree must be purchased from a business located in Scotts Bluff County.
- Applicant must present a sales slip stating the type, size, and cost of the tree to the City Clerk within sixty days of purchase.
- Two rebate maximum per property owner per year.
- Funding is limited, and rebates are on a first-come/ first served basis.
- Replacement trees for removed ash trees may be eligible for 65% rebate ($200 maximum) - *pre-removal inspection required*

Approved Tree List

- Kentucky Coffeetree
- Hackberry
- Honeylocust
- Bur Oak
- Chinkapin Oak
- Bigtooth Maple
- Colorado Spruce
- Ponderosa Pine
- And More!

There are over 40 different types of trees to choose from! Options exist for every participant and every space.

Visit www.scottsbluff.org/treerebate for more information.

Nebraska 811
Know what's below. 811 before you dig.

Contact Information

City of Scottsbluff
Parks & Recreation Department
308-630-6235
parks@scottsbluff.org

2021

Tree Rebate Program
Recomended Tree Species

City of SCOTTSBLUFF
A Place of Opportunity

Large Deciduous Trees		Medium-Small Deciduous Trees		Evergreen Trees (must be planted in back yard)	
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Common Name**	**Scientific Name**	**Common Name**	**Scientific Name**
Catalpa, Northern	*Catalpa speciosa*	Aspen, Bigtooth	*Populus grandidentata*	Douglasfir	*Pseudotsuga menziesii*
Coffeetree, Kentucky	*Gymnocladus diocus*	Buckeye, Ohio	*Aesculus glabra*	Fir, Concolor	*Abie concolor*
Elm, American	*Ulmus americana*	Cherry, Black	*Prunus serotina*	Juniper, Chinese	*Juniperus chinensis*
Elm, Hybrids	*Ulmus* spp.	Cherry, Canada Red	*Prunus virginia*	Juniper, Rocky Mountain	*Juniperus scopulorum*
'Accolade'	*Ulmus* 'Morton'	Crabapple (Fireblight Resistant)	*Malus* spp.	Juniper, 'Taylor'	*Juniperus virginiana* 'Taylor'
'Triumph'	*Ulmus* 'Morton Glossy'	Lilac, Japanese Tree	*Syringa reticulata*	Pine, Austrian	*Pinus nigra*
'Vanguard'	*Ulmus* 'Morton Plainsman'	Maackia, Amur	*Maackia amurensis*	Pine, Bosnian	*Pinus heldreichii*
Hackberry	*Celtis occidentalis*	Maple, Bigtooth	*Acer gradidentatum*	Pine, Jack	*Pinus banksiana*
Honeylocust (thornless)	*Gleditsia triacanthos*	Maple, Boxelder	*Acer negundo*	Pine, Limber	*Pinus flexilis*
Linden, American	*Tilia americana*	Maple, Rocky Mountain	*Acer glabrum*	Pine, Mugo 'Tannenbaum'	*Pinus mugo* 'Tannenbaum'
Linden, Littleleaf	*Tilia cordata*	Maple, Shantung	*Acer truncatum*	Pine, Pinyon	*Pinus cembroides* var. *edulis*
Oak, Bur	*Quercus macrocarpa*	Mountainash, Oakleaf	*Sorbus hybrida*	Pine, Ponderosa	*Pinus ponderosa*
Oak, Chinkapin	*Quercus, muehlenbergii*	Nannyberry	*Viburnum lentago*	Spruce, Black Hills	*Picea glauca* var. *densata*
Oak, English	*Quercus robur*	Oak, Bur-Gambel	*Quercus macrocarpa x gam*belii	Spruce, Colorado	*Picea pungens*
Oak, Swamp White	*Quercus bicolor*	Oak, Dwarf Chinkapin	*Quercus prinoides*	Spruce, Norway (non-contorted)	*Picea abies*
Walnut, Black	*Juglans nigra*	Oak, Gambel	*Quercus gambelii*	Spruce, White	*Picea glauca*

Tree-planting for Success

Justin Evertson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, © Nebraska Statewide Arboretum 2016, plantnebraska.org or retreenebraska.org

PLANTING

Proper planting is critical to the establishment of healthy, thriving trees. The planting guidelines below have been developed to help new trees get off to a successful start. The recommendations are based on nationally recognized standards as well as experience compiled by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and the Nebraska Forest Service. The recommendations assume that an appropriate tree has been selected for the planting site and that the site is suitable for planting.

DIGGING. Dig a saucer-shaped hole wider than the root system but no deeper than the root mass. Most holes do not need to be deeper than about one shovel's depth (10-14"). The bottom of the hole should be firm enough to prevent the tree from settling deeper after planting. **Note:** Using an auger is not recommended since trees often settle too deep and the sides of the holes become glazed. If using an auger, don't drill deeper than needed and loosen the sides of the hole.

PLANTING. Plant so the base of the trunk is at original ground level or slightly higher. **The first lateral roots** should end up just under the soil surface (1-2" deep) and the **trunk should flare** visibly at ground level.

- Always locate the first main lateral roots and remove any excess soil above them before setting the plant in the hole. The first main roots are often several inches below the top of the container or root ball.
- All graft unions should be visible above the soil line.
- Remove all pots and containers before planting.
- For balled and burlap (B&B) stock, try to remove the wire basket and burlap before placing the tree in the hole. If maintaining the integrity of the soil ball is important, then remove the bottom part of the burlap and wire basket before setting the plant in the hole and then remove the remaining burlap and wire basket after stabilizing the tree in the hole. Remember to check for and remove any excess soil at the top of the root ball before planting.
- **Loosen and spread circling roots before backfilling** (especially important for potted trees). It may be necessary to cut larger roots that cannot be straightened to prevent girdling, but this should be done with caution. Reject plants with severely circled or girdled root systems.
- For potted trees, try to remove as much of the original growing medium as possible before planting to help achieve good soil-root contact. Dunking in water or spraying with a hose will help in this effort.

BACKFILLING. Backfill with the original soil dug from the hole. Large clods and soil chunks should be broken up as much as possible. Adding water during backfilling can help remove air pockets and better moisten the roots.

MULCHING. Mulch individual trees with a 2-4" layer of wood mulch extending from the trunk to at least the drip line of the tree. Where possible, mulch trees and other plantings together en masse to help separate from surrounding turf. **Don't** pile the mulch deeply over roots or against the base of the trunk and **don't** mulch with rock or use plastic weed barriers under the mulch.

STAKING & BRACING. Brace the tree if it might dislodge or blow over in the wind (most trees typically benefit from staking). Some sway should be allowed in the tree after staking. Use only broad, belt-like materials to attach the bracing to the trunk to help prevent rubbing injuries. **Do not** brace with wire, rope or wire through hose. Remove staking within one year.

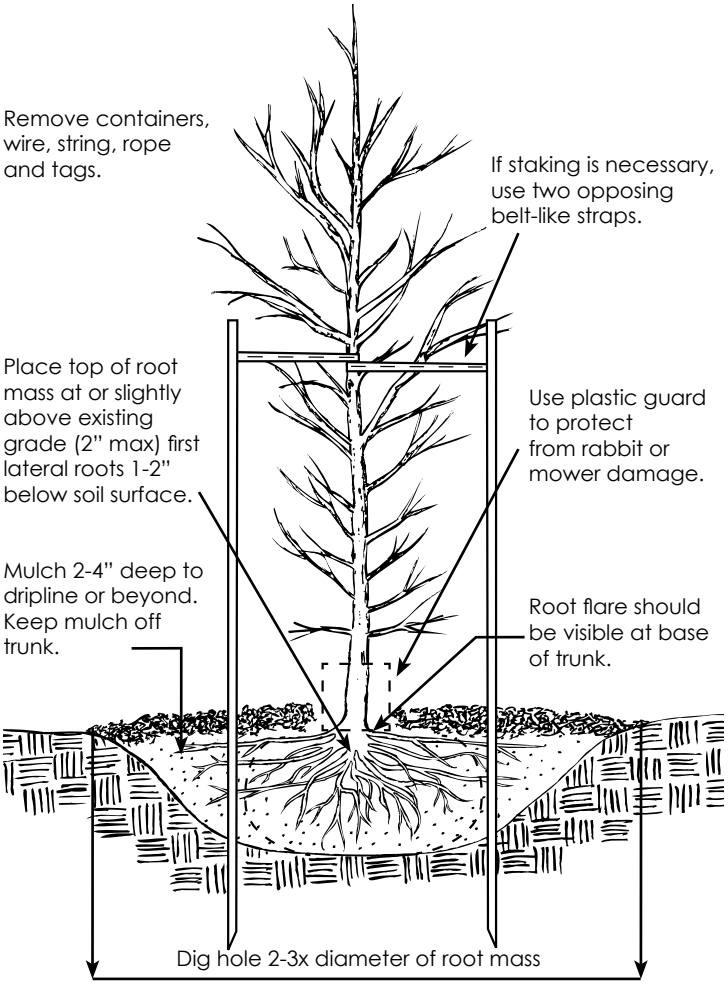
POST-PLANTING CARE

WATERING. After planting, keep the root zone moist but not waterlogged. In general, a newly planted tree should receive about 1" of moisture per week, including rainwater, during the first growing season. Check the root zone frequently for moistness—don't just guess. Many trees are lost to either under- or over-watering. Containerized trees often need more watering than bare-root or B&B stock, because the porous growing medium they are potted in dries out faster.

FERTILIZING. If the right tree was selected for the planting site, fertilizer is generally not needed. If fertilizer is desired, use only a slow-release, low-nitrogen fertilizer applied to the soil surface after planting.

- **Never** add fertilizer to the planting hole since it can damage newly transplanted roots. In addition, excess nitrogen in the soil can cause newly planted trees to add top growth at the expense of proper root development.
- Address major soil problems **before** planting. Adding organic matter to the planting site before planting can be very beneficial for poor, inorganic and/or compacted soils.

PRUNING. At planting time, prune only to remove dead or damaged branches and to correct structural defects. Never cut back healthy branches or trim the tree to try and "balance" the top with the roots. The tree will benefit from having as many food-producing leaves left on as possible. Also, try to leave lower branches on a tree for as long as possible after planting. Lower branches help protect the trunk from cracking, sunscald and animal damage and they aid in developing good trunk taper. If needed, limb the tree up gradually over a matter of several years after planting. Monitor the tree when young and prune, sparingly but properly, to prevent structural defects.



NEBRASKA STATEWIDE Arboretum

Nebraska Forest Service

ReTree Nebraska

Common Mistakes of Tree-planting

Properly planting trees is not rocket science—it is in fact a lot more difficult and challenging, given the potential complex mixture of tree selection and site characteristics as well as environmental, biological and social variables. But successfully selecting, planting and caring for a tree until it's established is quite doable, especially if you escape the challenge of what I commonly refer to as "loving your tree to death." There is a plethora of great information on the web (see references below) on how to properly plant and grow your tree, but here are some of the most common mistakes, mistakes that have led to the untimely death of far too many trees.

- **POOR SELECTION**. The tree you select must match the site characteristics you have to work with, and soil quality is one of the biggest drivers. Quality of nursery stock is also a big factor, "once a poor quality tree—always a poor quality tree." Trees do not heal from defects and root quality problems, they either seal them over with wound wood, or the defect continues to worsen over time. Many a tree death can be traced back to poor quality stock and initial defects.
- **INADEQUATE ROOT SYSTEMS**. We tend to buy trees based on the stem and canopy and completely overlook the root system. The root system is the driver in getting your tree off to a healthy start in the landscape, and all too often the root system is too small to support the canopy. A good rule of thumb to follow is that, for every inch of tree diameter, you should have 12-14 inches of root ball.
- **POOR PLANTING SITE**. This relates primarily to soil type and drainage pattern. Sites with high clay or sand contents will limit species selection and adaptability. Regardless of the site, there is almost certainly a tree that will thrive in it, but you may need to do a little research to see what is currently growing well in the area.
- **GIRDLING ROOTS**. A majority of nursery stock is being grown and sold in round plastic pots or containers. While it is possible to find high quality stock in containers, a high percentage of root systems from round pots have container- and stem-girdling roots, roots that spiral around the container and/or stem of the tree. Left as is, they may lead to the death or failure of the tree.
- **PLANTING HOLE**. There is a tendency to dig a hole that is either too small or too deep or, even worse, both too small and too deep as in the case of soil augers. Take the time to dig and create a planting site which is a shallow hole no deeper than the root ball and much wider—two or three times wider than the root ball if possible. Breaking up the soil outside the rootball will allow tree roots to more quickly grow out into native soil and get established.
- **PLANTED TOO DEEP**. The planting hole should be no deeper than the root ball itself. Planting the tree too deep, even just 2-3 inches too deep with many tree species, can greatly reduce vigor and lead to the slow death of the tree. Before planting the tree in the planting site, locate the first level of primary lateral roots and keep them at or near the soil surface. It is always much better to plant too shallow rather than too deep.
- **MULCH VOLCANOES OR NO MULCH.** This is a tree killer either way—too much mulch or not enough. Too much mulch, the mulch volcano effect, can trap moisture around the tree and greatly reduce oxygen levels in the soil, a leading cause for tree decline. Not enough or no mulch creates a situation where tree roots are competing for water and nutrients with turf grasses and/or are exposed to weed-whackers and mowers next to the bark. Mulch should be shaped like a crater, with very little (less than 1 inch) next to the stem and tapering outward to approximately 4 inches deep at the edge. This will keep equipment away from the tree, improve soil moisture and oxygen levels and the organic matter in the mulch will create better growing conditions.
- **IMPROPER WATERING**. More trees are killed annually from too much water than not enough. This is particularly common in heavy clay soils or in over-irrigated fescue lawns. Too much water can suffocate tree roots and lead to a slow decline or the eventual loss of the tree. How much to water is based on soil type and the type of tree you are trying to grow, as some trees require much more water than others. The quick and dirty way to tell if there is enough soil moisture is to test if you can easily push a long handled screwdriver or similar probe down into the soil 10-12 inches. If you can, there is probably adequate water.

To plant a tree is easy. To properly select and plant a tree that's right for the site requires careful review, thought and planning. But it can be successfully done and, by avoiding some of the common mishaps listed above, you should be able to plant and grow a tree that will benefit many generations to come. More resources at: nfs.unl.edu

Tree Rebate Program

Name: _____ Permit Number: _____

Address: _____

Tree Species: _____ Purchased From: _____ Purchase Date: _____

Planted by: _____ Planted Date: _____

Draw a site plan showing the following:

- Location of tree(s)
- Location of house, other structures, driveway, sidewalk, and street

Removed trees can be taken to the City of Scottsbluff Compost Facility

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

(City of Scottsbluff Representative)

TREE REMOVAL / PLANTING PERMIT

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

(This permit must be applied for before the removal of plant material or within 48 hours of planting.)

DATE: _____

1. Address of proposed Planting [ ] Removal [ ] _____

   _____

2. Name of Property Owner: _____

3. Contractor's Name (if any): _____
   Is Contractor a Licensed Arborist? Yes [ ] No [ ]

4. Name of Applicant who has requested the work to be done: _____

   Address of Applicant: _____

   Phone Number of Applicant: _____

5. Number of trees to be trimmed or removed: _____

   Species: _____Diameter of trunk (approximate)_____

6. Number of trees/shrubs to be planted: _____ Species: _____

7. (FOR TREE REMOVAL) Certificate of Insurance is Attached: YES [ ] NO [ ]

8. The following street will be barricaded:_____(Street), between

   _____(Street) and _____(Street).

9. The street will be barricaded from: (time and date)_____

To: (time and date) _____.

Please include a site plan on the back of this form which indicates the location of the planting in relation to the street corners, alleys, hydrants and other trees for this property.

AGREEMENT OF APPLICANT: I, the applicant above-named, as between myself and the City of Scottsbluff, hereby agree that if the permit herein requested is granted to me, that I shall save the City of Scottsbluff harmless and protect the City and the public at all times in connection with such work under such permit, and shall do such work in compliance with specifications set forth by the City of Scottsbluff tree ordinances.

_____
(Signature of Applicant)

PERMIT NUMBER _____

Date Issued: _____

Lot _____, Block _____

Addition_____

_____

APPROVED DISAPPROVED

City of Scottsbluff

By _____

Trees constituting street trees may be planted no closer together than 15 feet for small trees, 20 feet for medium trees, and 25 feet for large trees; **provided** the Tree Board may approve proposals for alternative spacing as part of an application for a special exception that is proposed to be included in a formal landscape plan, if the Board shall determine that such spacing will not be substantially inconsistent with the purpose of the City Tree Plan.

Shrubs constituting street trees shall be trimmed to a height not greater than 30 inches above the top of the curb (or, if there be no curb, the surface of the street or alley), unless the Tree Board determines that a greater height would not constitute a hazard to pedestrians or vehicular traffic.

Street trees shall be planted not less than 35 feet from any street corner, measured from the point of nearest intersecting curbs or curb lines, and not less than 8 feet from any hydrant. The owner of abutting property shall not allow a street tree to grow in such manner that it shall interfere with any private or public utility line either above or below ground. A public or private utility may trim or remove, if necessary, any street tree which obstructs its lines, wires or pipes, including house service lines, wires or pipes.

SITE PLAN: INDICATE LOCATION OF TREES TO BE REMOVED/PLANTED, SPECIES AND DISTANCES FROM STREET CORNER, ALLEYS, FIRE HYDRANTS AND OTHER TREES: