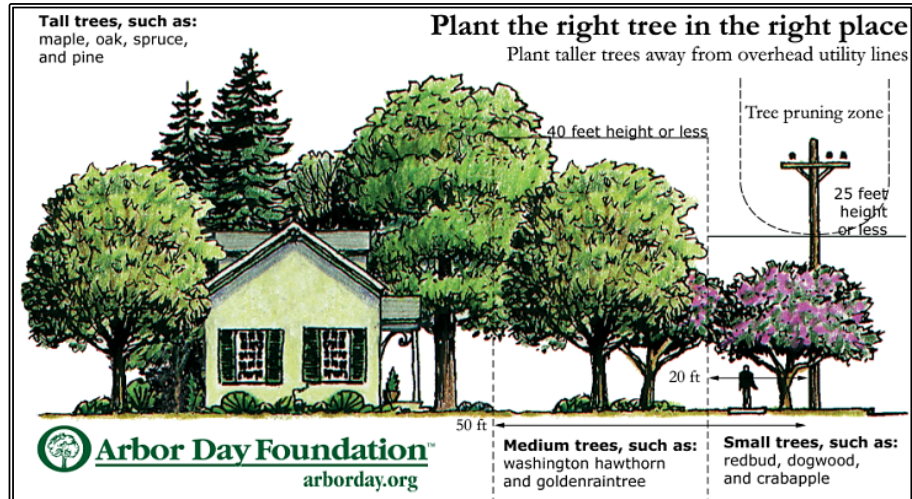


TREE PLANTING INFORMATION FOR SINGLE-FAMILY HOMEOWNERS

Single-family homeowners can help maintain and develop a long-term urban tree canopy. Among other benefits, trees help clean the air, reduce greenhouse gases, improve the appearance of neighborhoods, provide shade and other cooling effects, and support habitats for birds.

Many tree removals result from trees being planted and maturing in undesirable locations, causing root damage to infrastructure, conflicting with future additions, or receiving inadequate water or care.

The following items and web links are provided to assist homeowners in planning for long-term, sustainable tree planting and shading.



Items to consider:

- Think long-term tree health and maturity.
- Plant species that are native, drought-tolerant, or appropriate for the local moisture regime, aka "Mediterranean" climate.
- Know the root and canopy characteristics to reduce conflicts with existing or future site conditions, (e.g., future addition, utilities, drainage, driveway, foundation, or fence). Each tree species requires a different trunk and root clearance radius.
- Locate deciduous trees and screen planting, with a leaf cycle providing shade during the warmer months and sunlight during the colder months, along the south side of the home.
- Plant broad-canopied trees to shade the driveway and other hard surfaces.
- Do not plant trees which will obstruct the visibility to and from the public street(s) near driveways or on corner lots. Canopies should not hang lower than 6' in height.
- Do not plant trees with irritating qualities, like dropping sap on your car or fruit that stains or smells.
- Consider structural soil to contain the roots when planting in pockets surrounded by concrete.
- Plant trees close together in order to ensure a complete canopy, but remember to space them at least 10' to 20' (for medium/large trees) in order to ensure adequate available soil and to reduce competition between trees.

Helpful web links:

- A local database of trees and characteristics tailored to Palo Alto but also relevant to Mountain View: <http://www.canopy.org/pages/about-trees/canopy-tree-library.php>
- Mountain View's Heritage Tree Protection Ordinance: http://www.mountainview.gov/city_hall/comm_services/forestry/heritage_trees/default.asp
- General Information: <http://www.arborday.org/>