Planting trees in Saint-Lazare: an environmentally-friendly gesture

Before planting a tree, you must first check with public utilities.

- **Plant trees away from power lines:** No vegetation must grow near the distribution system’s medium voltage lines. For safety and to ensure reliable electrical service, trees planted too close to power lines will inevitably be pruned repeatedly and could even be topped off by Hydro-Québec technicians.

- **Plant trees away from underground pipes, cables and wires:** Before digging and to find out the exact location of underground services, you must call Info Excavation toll-Free at 1-800-663-9228.

- **Do not plant a tree in the right of way:** A tree planted in the right of way becomes Town property. If the tree interferes with municipal maintenance work or services, it will be cut down or pruned by Town employees.

- **Other things to consider:** De-icing salts used on roadways can cause damage to nearby trees. In addition, snow removal trucks can damage the bark of trees planted too close to the road.

Environmental benefits of planting trees:

- **Help reduce air pollution**
- **Prevent soil erosion**
- **Provide shade by planting a deciduous tree on the south side of your home to keep it cool in summer**
- **Block out the wind by planting conifers**
- **Help reduce air pollution**

Choosing the right species

Choose your trees according to the following criteria:

- **Goal - Begin by identifying your goal.** Do you want to:
  - Embellish and add value to your property
  - Prevent soil erosion
  - Hide an unsightly element or reduce background noise
  - Restore a deteriorated ecosystem
  - Provide shade by planting a deciduous tree on the south side of your home to keep it cool in summer
  - Block out the wind by planting conifers
  - Help reduce air pollution

- **Existing vegetation:** Observe the surrounding vegetation. Tree species near your property that grow well naturally and species native to our region have a greater chance of growing well.

- **Sunlight:** Note how many hours of sunlight your tree will receive. Tree growth varies according to the amount of sunlight and each species needs a certain number of hours every day.

- **Apparence:** Factor in the desired look: foliage, fall colour, flowering, height at maturity, planted alone, in a grove or in a row.

***A detailed list of native trees found on our territory is available on the Town’s website at: [www.ville.saint-lazare.qc.ca/environment](http://www.ville.saint-lazare.qc.ca/environment)* under the tab trees.

- **Soil conditions:** Make sure that your soil is suited to the chosen species to promote the tree’s growth and resistance to insects and disease.

Here are some characteristics that must be taken into account:

- **Sandy soil:** Water penetrates more easily
- **Clay soil:** Water penetrates more slowly
- **Loam soil:** This mixture of sand and clay provides the best water retention
- **Whatever the soil, other factors can have an influence on water retention such as the slope, the depth of the soil, the ground water, the season and the structure of the soil (compacted or not).**

Choosing a location

- **Trees grown in containers**
- **Balled tree**
- **Bare-root tree**
- **Transplanted tree**

How to plant a tree

1. **Start by digging a hole twice as wide and as deep as the root ball.**

2. **Remove the container, wire basket or burlap before placing the tree in the hole.** Make sure that the root crown is at soil level, not lower or higher.

3. **Add mycorrhizae at the bottom of the hole to stimulate root growth.** Mycorrhizae are fungi naturally present in the soil in variable amounts that increase the roots’ capacity to absorb nutrients.

4. **Hold the tree trunk in a vertical position before filling the hole with the excavated soil to which you will have added compost.** Compact the soil well with your feet. Do not cover the root crown!

5. **Make a 10 cm-high ridge of soil around the root ball to direct water towards the roots.** Water well and add a layer of mulch 8 to 15 cm thick to keep the roots moist while avoiding covering the trunk.

Caring for a new tree

A new tree will require particular care during the first years.

**Stakes:** After planting, one or two stakes facing into the prevailing wind will ensure the tree’s stability. Do not use rigid ties to avoid damaging the bark. Remove the stakes after a year or two.

**Watering:** Depending on the weather, container grown trees will require a deep watering once or twice a week during the first three weeks.

**Pruning:** A young tree sometimes requires pruning to determine its shape. Furthermore, a single trunk is best for the long term growth of the tree. Contact an expert if needed.

**Fertilizers:** Fertilizers will not be required if you choose a tree well adapted to your type of soil and if compost and mycorrhizae have been added at planting time.

---

**Choosing the right species**

1. **Transplanted tree**
2. **Bare-root tree**
3. **Balled tree**
4. **Trees grown in containers**

**Planting period**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree type</th>
<th>Planting period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transplanted tree</td>
<td>early spring or in the fall after the leaves have fallen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bare-root tree</td>
<td>à l’automne après la tombée des feuilles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balled tree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees grown in containers</td>
<td>at any time as long as the ground is not frozen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>