

TREE SPECIES

The Tree Inspector will recommend a tree suitable for your property. It is not recommended to plant trees in tree lawns less than 2.5' in width. All street trees must be tree form (single trunk) and a minimum caliper of 2"-2.5" measured 6" above the root flare. The City Arborist has final approval on specific species.

UNACCEPTABLE TREES

Weak wood, soil incompatibility, excessive fruit, etc.

Black Locust, Black Walnut, Boxelder, Catalpa, Bradford Pear, Fruit trees, Ginkgo, female Honey locust, thorned, Norway Maple, Mulberry, Pin Oak, and Poplars.

IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU REQUIRE TREE WORK, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

1. Contact the Department of Public Works
Monday - Friday | 8AM - 4PM | 610-437-7596
2. Share the details of your concerns
3. Request a list of approved ISA tree contractors be mailed to you. This list can be found on the city website at <https://www.allentownpa.gov/>
Search: *Shade Tree Commission*

YARD WASTE DROP OFF SITE

Oxford Dr & Fish Hatchery Road

SPRING/SUMMER/FALL

April - November
Wednesday 8am - 4pm
Saturday 8am - 3pm

WINTER

(Weather Dependent)
First Saturday Monthly
10am-12pm
(Hours Are Subject To Change)

**Questions? Contact the Recycling Bureau
610-437-8729**

TREE SELECTION GUIDELINES

When selecting a healthy tree, look for these characteristics:

- A strong, well-developed leader (central branch) with good trunk taper
- Bright, healthy bark
- Healthy buds
- Trunk at least 2" in caliper (diameter)
- Trunk & limbs free of insect or mechanical injury
- Branches well-distributed around trunk and of considerably smaller caliper (diameter) than trunk
- Ideal spacing between branches of at least 8"-12" for most spaces
- Branches attached to the trunk at wide angles (crotches) for strength
- Low branches are good for aiding taper development and promoting trunk caliper growth, but should be pruned to leave tree free of branches up to 50% of its height



For more information please contact:

City of Allentown

Department of Public Works

641 S. 10th Street

Allentown PA 18103

610-437-7596

City of Allentown

Department of Public Works

Allentown

HOMEOWNERS

GUIDE TO

SHADE

TREES



EVERYTHING YOU

**NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
PLANTING AND CARING**

FOR YOUR SHADE TREE

WHAT IS A SHADE TREE?

A shade tree is identified as any tree, shrub and woody vegetation in a public right of way. The right of way is the width of a strip of land between property lines set aside for public or private use or ownership as a street, alley, crosswalk, or utility provision. Most often, it is the strip of ground between the sidewalk and the street, although this is not the only instance.

Shade trees are important to the health and vitality of a neighborhood because they help to:

- Make your surroundings pleasant
- Reduce runoff and street noise
- Improve air quality
- Increase the value of real estate
- Provide relief from summer's heat and reduce glare from the pavement

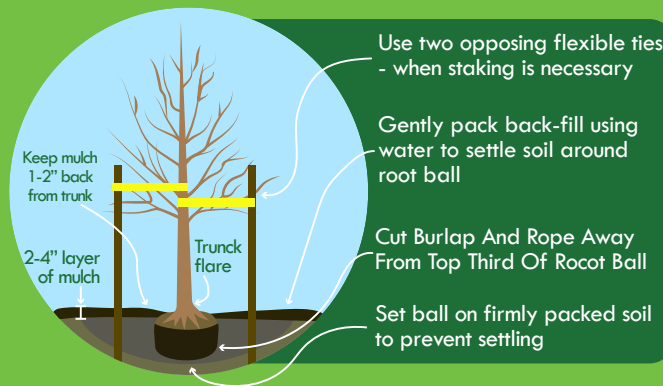
SHADE TREE ORDINANCE

Like most cities, the City of Allentown has a Shade Tree Ordinance which was established to protect and preserve our street and public property trees.

SAY NO TO TOPPING



The practice is unsightly, unhealthy and unprofessional.



MULCHING

Cover the planting area with 2" to 4" of shredded bark mulch making sure to keep it a few inches away from the trunk. Mulching conserves soil moisture, discourages weeds, and keeps mowers and line trimmers away from the tree trunk. DO NOT pile mulch up and around the trunk of the tree. This practice is detrimental to the tree growth and health.

WATERING

One of the most important things you can do to get your new tree off to a good start is regular watering. If rainfall is less than 1" per week, slowly soak the soil around the newly-planted tree applying about 15-20 gallons per watering.

STAKING

Staking should only be done if necessary as slight movement of the tree encourages better root growth. If supporting the tree, place stakes beyond the root ball, use flexible ties, and remove stakes and ties after one year.

PRUNING

On new trees, only prune damaged or crossed branches.

FERTILIZING

It is not recommended to fertilize newly planted trees.

PERMITS

A Shade Tree Permit is required before pruning, planting, removing, chemical spraying, fertilizing, construction, excavation, and temporary lighting. Call the Department of Public Works at 610-437-7596 to obtain your permit.

WHY DO I NEED A PERMIT?

Permits allow the City to ensure that tree work is completed in accordance with ANSI Z133 safety standards and ISA arboriculture best practices.

WHO CAN GET A PERMIT?

- **Property owner** - can obtain a permit for stump removal or planting only
- **Tree Contractors** - Approved by ISA can obtain a permit for pruning, full removal, stump removal, & planting.

LICENSE

Tree work performed on street or public property trees must be done by an ISA-Certified, licensed tree service company with the City of Allentown.

TREES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Downed trees and branches are the property owner's responsibility to clean up and dispose of.

Branches can be prepared for curbside yard waste collection by cutting them into six-foot lengths, tying branches into 40lb bundles, and placing out on your recycling night. Curbside yard waste collection begins the first full week of April and continues through the week of Thanksgiving.

Branches or logs over 4" in diameter must be taken to the Allentown Yard Waste Drop Off Site, or the owner may contract privately with a tree service or landscaper for removal.

You do not need a permit to complete any work on a private tree outside the public right of way. The City has no jurisdiction over disputes between neighbors related to private trees.