

Approved Street Trees for Newburgh and How to Plant Them

The trees listed here all survive well on city treelawns (the grassy strip between the sidewalk and curb). Plant large trees 30 feet apart, and smaller ones at least 20 feet apart. Note: This list of the “Approved Street Trees for Newburgh” may change from time to time, depending on the latest research. To be sure, contact the Conservation Advisory Council’s administrative assistant, JK Gentile, at 845-569-7383 or jgentile@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov.

LARGE trees have the largest root systems and provide the most shade, and therefore do the most to benefit the environment and our residents’ health. They can live 100 years or more. These large trees must be planted in spots where there are **NO WIRES OVERHEAD**, as they can eventually grow to be 60 feet high or more:

London Plane trees, specifically “Bloodgood” or “Liberty” cultivars

Thornless Honeylocust

Red Oak

White Oak

Pin Oak

Swamp White Oak

Accolade Elm

MEDIUM trees also provide a good amount of shade, and many have lovely leaves or blossoms. Some of these grow to be only about 25 to 40 feet high and may be planted **UNDER CABLES** or **ELECTRIC WIRES**. These trees can live for 40 years or more:

Japanese Zelkova (can grow to 60 feet high), specifically the cultivar “Green Vase”

Trident Maple (“Chinese Maple”), can live 100 years or more.

Japanese Pagodatree

Three-Flowered Maple, “Acer Triflorum”

Golden Raintree, “Koelreuteria paniculata”

SMALL trees can provide a great deal of beauty and shelter for birds and other wildlife. Reaching heights of less than 25 feet, they can be planted under wires. They often have attractive flowers, leaves or berries:

Kousa Dogwood (single-stem only), “Cornus kousa”

Serviceberry (single-stem only), “Autumn Brilliance”

Crabapple “Golden Raindrops”

Crabapple “Prairiefire”

Japanese Tree Lilac, “Ivory Silk”

DO NOT PLANT: Ailanthus, Norway Maples (invasive and Newburgh has too many already); Poplars; Callery Pears (also called Cleveland Select Pears), or Silver Maples (branches are fragile and drop easily).

How to Plant a Tree in Newburgh

On treelawns, you must have a space 4 feet by 5 feet in which to plant a tree. New trees planted in Newburgh must be at least one and a half inches in diameter, measured 54 inches above the ground. See our list of Approved Trees to Plant in Newburgh.

Plant only in spring or fall. Planting in summer or winter puts extra stress on new trees. It's fine to plant while it's raining. The steps involved in planting trees in Newburgh are:

1. First, call the CAC at 845-569-7380 to let us know where and when you'd like to plant. That way, our City Arborist can follow through and update the City's Tree Inventory when you're done.
2. Then dial 8-1-1, the “Call Before You Dig” line and tell them roughly when you want to plant. The folks there will tell you when they'll come out and mark where, if any, gas or electric lines run underneath your treelawn (the space between your curb and sidewalk). Yellow paint is for gas lines, and red paint is for electric lines. You cannot plant closer than 30 inches from the center of such lines!
3. Call some nurseries and ask for prices. (The CAC can give you the names and contact info for some local ones.) Be aware: Trees can cost \$150 or more for small ones and \$250 or more for large ones. Plus, you may have to pay for delivery. Of course, you'll need work gloves, but you'll also likely need a couple of strong friends with shovels, to help you dig the “tree pit” for your new tree. Have the pit dug before your tree is delivered, so the tree doesn't have to sit around with no water for too long. The pit has to be as deep as the distance from the “root flare” (see below) to the bottom of the root ball, and twice as wide as the root ball, to give the roots room to grow. **It's important that the “root flare” (the highest place where a major root joins the trunk) be planted no deeper than the top of the pit.** The root flare is NOT the same as the top of the root ball! Gently dig into the soil at the top of the root ball until you find the highest major root coming out of the trunk. It's often a few inches down. THAT is the root that needs to be at ground level, and no lower! Trees planted too deeply are the cause of many of the broken sidewalks in Newburgh, because if rain can't sink down to the roots, the roots turn upward seeking water. That action heaves the sidewalks.
4. You'll also need a bag of compost to mix into the soil, to give the tree more nutrients; and a bag of topsoil to mix in as well, to replace the rocks and bits of brick, asphalt and glass you may find while digging. Don't forget to buy a bag of organic mulch, to help regulate the temperature of the roots. Don't let the mulch touch the trunk: That could lead to harmful insects climbing onto your tree. Instead, make a “moat” of bare soil around the tree, giving it about six inches of “breathing room” all around. You'll also need a pair of

wire cutters if you're buying a tree with burlap wrapped around its root ball, because that burlap is usually held on with wire. Remove as much of the burlap and wire as you can. It's OK to leave a bit of the wire near the bottom of the root ball if it's too difficult to remove. (Synthetic burlap is harmful; natural burlap is not. Ask your nursery what kind it provides.)

5. You will probably need a pair of "nippers" to snip off any roots that are encircling the trunk of your new tree. Such roots, if left to grow, will eventually choke off nutrients the tree needs.
6. After rolling the tree gently (move it by its root ball, never by its trunk) into the tree pit, replace about a third of the soil back into the pit, mixed with some compost and topsoil. Water and tamp down to be sure there are no air pockets. Then repeat this process (adding soil, then water, then tamping down) until the pit is filled up. Then water thoroughly once more. **BE SURE THE TOP OF THE ROOT BALL IS NO LOWER THAN THE LEVEL OF THE GROUND THE TREE IS PLANTED IN.** Have someone hold the tree upright and check occasionally to be sure you're planting it straight.
7. Please check out these two great, short videos on how to plant properly:
<https://bit.ly/35PXw0w> and <https://bit.ly/3363B71>

Water slowly and thoroughly at least twice a week for the first two years after planting a tree, and more often in summer. You can buy a "tree watering bag," called a "gator," at many nurseries or online. Fill your gator with water and it will let that water seep slowly and steadily into the soil around the tree, which is the perfect way to water it. Gators need to be refilled only about once a week. Use two stakes, attached to the tree via some rubber tubing or plastic "chain," to help the tree survive windstorms during those first years. These items are all sold at nurseries.

GOOD LUCK, and THANKS

FOR HELPING MAKE NEWBURGH A GREENER, HEALTHIER PLACE!