The Right Tree for the Right Place

Any Friend of Tree City USA can list the many benefits of trees — shade, beauty, windbreak, privacy, cleaner air, less noise, less glare, and higher property values to name a few. But the key to these benefits is to select the right tree and plant it in the right place. The right tree in the right place not only ensures a lifetime of satisfaction, it also keeps maintenance costs low.

WRONG (above)

Planting large trees under utility lines often means disfigured trees. Large evergreens close to the house on the south block warming winter sunlight.

RIGHT (right)

Short flowering trees don’t clash with overhead utility lines. Large deciduous trees on the southeast, southwest, and west provide cooling shade in summer and don’t obstruct the low winter sun. An evergreen windbreak on the north blocks cold winter winds.

THIS ISSUE:

- How environmental factors should influence your choice of trees
- Match your purpose for planting with the right tree to plant
- Information about using planter boxes
- Much more

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

1. The tree’s purpose will impact the suitability of different tree species, whether used for shade, aesthetic beauty, wind protection, screening, or other purposes.

2. Size and location of the tree, including available space for roots and branches, affects the decision on which species to plant. (See chart)

3. Crown form or shape varies among species, including round, oval, columnar, V-shaped, or pyramidal shapes. Consider how the shape of the tree works in the space available.