



Welcome to the neighbourhood!

Qualico Communities Calgary is happy to provide all new residents with two potted trees for their yard.

To ensure proper growth and survival, we recommend that homeowners read and follow the guidelines suggested in this document. A tree that is planted and not cared for will die. By caring correctly for your tree, you will ensure its survival, and in return, it will enhance the landscape and your property value.

## **SPRING** **WATERING**

After a tree is planted, it should be thoroughly saturated for the first 2-3 days to ensure moisture has perforated the root completely. The new tree should then be watered once a week or as needed for the remainder of the season.

Ensure the roots stay moist at all times. Allow water to trickle in the tree slowly for a while, rather than blasting it with water quickly, as this allows the water to sink lower around the roots. Watering in the morning or evening is recommended for the tree to get the most water retention. Once the ground is dry 4" below the surface, it is time to water again. This is easily monitored by sticking your finger into the soil.

## **LATE SUMMER/ EARLY FALL WATERING**

In the late summer/early fall, the tree should still be getting the same amount of water as this prepares it for the Winter. Just before the ground freezes, saturate the roots thoroughly with water so that it is watered-in and ices when the ground is completely frozen; this will protect your tree from frost damage.





## FERTILIZING

Fertilizing your tree can be beneficial by providing more nutrients to the base to help it grow. Newly planted trees will soak up nitrogen from fertilizer, which allows them to establish a dense canopy over time. Slow-acting fertilizer can be applied up to the middle of July.

As with any fertilizer, read and follow the directions on the container; failure to do so can kill a tree.

## MULCHING

Mulching your trees can be beneficial as mulch helps balance the soil temperature and retain moisture, but over-mulching can also harm your tree. Ideally, spread 2-3 inches of mulch evenly around the tree and leave a few inches around the tree's trunk, ensuring that no mulch is touching the trunk itself.

In the Fall, once the ground has frozen, it is a good idea to cover the top of the root with mulch, such as grass clippings, leaves, or wood shavings for additional winter protection.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR BEST GROWTH

Location is the most important aspect when planting your tree. Depending on what type of tree you get, you will have to see how much sun it will need to grow. With this in mind, choose a location that sets your tree up for success.

Protect your tree like it's a baby, because it is. While your tree grows, it is at risk from bugs, animals, storms and diseases. To help your tree grow, we recommend trimming leaves as needed, wrapping your tree up if the weather drops below 0 in the spring, and watching if there are animals always near your tree that might be biting off parts. For a solution, you can get a tree cover in many different styles to stop this from happening.





## THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU DIG

Before any digging or excavation in your yard, please contact Alberta One Call for utilities and Dig Shaw for fibre optic cables to ensure you know the location of all underground utilities.

- <https://utilitiesafety.ca/wheres-the-line/click-before-you-dig>
- <https://digshaw.ca/>

## WHERE YOU CANNOT PLANT

The City of Calgary has specific regulations concerning the location of trees relative to utilities that are commonly found on residential properties.

- Shallow utilities (ATCO, Enmax, Internet, Cable): Minimum of 2m away
- Fire Hydrants: Minimum of 2.5 to 4.0 m away
- Street Lights: Minimum of 4.0 to 5.0 m away

## WHERE YOU SHOULD NOT PLANT

Trees should not be planted where they will grow into overhead structures like eaves, overhangs, or fences. Nor should they be planted in a low spot in the yard where water might collect and drown the tree.

## WHERE YOU SHOULD PLANT

We recommend picking up and moving your potted tree around your yard to find the spot you prefer before digging the hole. Try it as a screen to block the view from your neighbours or near a patio or seating area for shade in the summer. Keep in mind that your little potted tree could grow as large as 20 m high and 12 m wide for larger species, and be sure the spot you select has enough space for the tree to mature in size.



## TREE PLANTING PROCESS

Selecting the correct spot for your tree is essential to minimizing problems in the future. In the wrong spot, tree branches can grow into eaves, power lines, and fences, causing irritating and expensive repairs. In the right spot, trees will only need occasional pruning to maintain shape and healthy branches.

The ground in your yard consists of 15 cm (6 inches) of topsoil on a heavily compacted clay base that can be difficult to dig. The topsoil is relatively easy to dig and should be piled separately from the clay beneath. The clay should not be used to refill the hole as it will cause the soil to be too heavy, retaining too much water and not allowing oxygen into the root area. Make sure to dig the hole at least twice the diameter of the pot, and the depth should be equal to the height of the root once the tree is removed from the pot. The tree's roots will dry too quickly if the hole is not deep enough. If the hole is too deep, the tree can suffocate and die. Tree roots want to grow horizontally through the soil, not vertically into the ground, so the wider you make the hole, the happier your tree will be.

Your tree will have been in its pot for at least one full season, and it may be stubborn getting out. Have someone hold the pot as you pull on the trunk as close to the soil's surface as you can grip. If the tree does not come out directly, it will need some persuasion. Ideally, a long, thin strip of metal – a cake knife works well – can be run around the inside of the pot to free any roots that may have bound to the sides of the pot. If that does not work, or you don't have an appropriate tool, a few taps with a small hammer around the outside of the pot should do the trick. Be careful not to hit so hard that you loosen the root mass itself, or the tree will be damaged.

When ready to plant, place the root in the centre of the hole and gently massage the root mass to loosen the dirt; this helps roots grow outward into the hole. Be sure that the soil level is the same as the pot, and then start backfilling. Add soil a few inches at a time and firm it with your boots to eliminate air pockets. Add a little water now and then and repeat until you've filled the hole to the level of the surrounding area. At this point, the tree must be watered immediately. Watering the tree right away helps settle the soil and ensures that your tree won't shift later.



## COMMON PESTS AND DISEASES

Aphids - small pear-shaped insects that feed on plant sap.

Oystershell Scale - small clusters of oyster-shaped “shells” that cover bark on shrubs and trees

Satin moth - feeds on poplar tree leaves.

Black Knot Fungus - large knots of bark encircle the branch.

Elm Scale - tiny crawling insects on tree leaves, twigs and branches.

Ash Psyllid - small insects on tree leaves, resulting in curling leaves.

Yellow-Headed Spruce Sawfly - caterpillar-like insect on spruce needles.

Fire Blight - a bacterial disease that browns and kills leaves, flowers and branches.

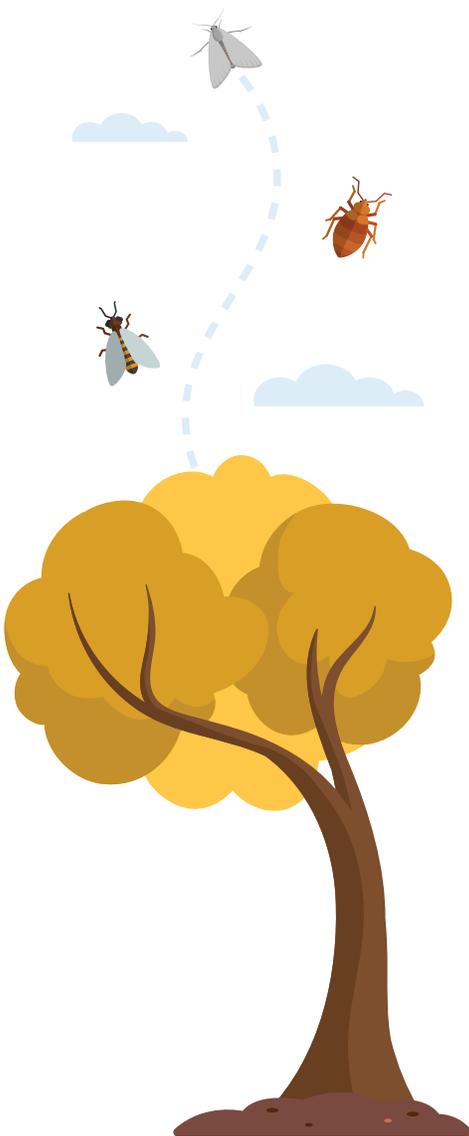
Ash Leaf-Cone Roller - caterpillar/moth-like insect that rolls tree leaves.

Bronze Leaf Disease (BLD) - is new to the Calgary area and affects certain poplar and aspen trees.

Dutch Elm Disease (DED) - is a fungus spread by the elm bark beetle in elm trees. Alberta is DED-free and works diligently to stay that way.

**Please see the link below for more in-depth information**

<https://www.calgary.ca/csps/parks/planning-and-operations/pest-management/tree-pests-and-diseases.html>



**Have any questions?**

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