

# Sustainable Backyards Program: TREES

50% off  
Rebate  
Inside

Also available: Rebates for Compost Bins, [Rain Barrels](#), and [Native Plants](#)

## The Value of a Tree:

Trees have been found to reduce air pollution, increase property values, improve human health and well-being, decrease energy costs and create a sense of community among residents, thereby lowering crime rates. For these reasons alone, the city will benefit from more trees.



## Why Plant a Tree at Home?

- By planting strategically, you can reduce your energy bills and carbon footprint.
- Increase your property value.
- Remove pollution from the air and help prevent flooding by managing stormwater.
- Buffer noise pollution.
- Provide shade and wind protection.
- Increase habitat for local wildlife.

## Background on Chicago's Urban Forest:

- Chicago's urban forest is comprised of over 3.5 million trees.
- Chicago has committed to increasing tree canopy from 17.2% (2008 level) to 20% by the year 2020. Most of the land available for planting more trees is in our backyards, front yards, and parkways.
- Every year, Chicago's urban forest:
  - Removes 888 tons of pollution, at a value of \$6.4 million.
  - Absorbs 25,200 tons of carbon dioxide.
- The structural value of our urban forest is estimated at \$2.3 billion.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
One medium-sized tree  
can absorb 2,800 gallons  
of rainfall per year.



## We can help!

### Rebates

We want to give you 50% off (up to \$100) any locally-purchased tree! All you have to do is fill out the attached rebate form and send it in with your original purchase receipt. See rebate form (attached) for more details.

### Workshops

Attend a free Sustainable Backyards Workshop! The City of Chicago, along with its Sustainable Backyards partners, will be hosting a series of free informative workshops across the city. You'll learn the basics of installing and maintaining rain barrels, compost bins, trees and native plants, and can share stories of backyard challenges and successes with fellow attendees. For more details, visit: [www.cityofchicago.org/rainbarrel](http://www.cityofchicago.org/rainbarrel)

### Resources

To request a tree on your parkway, call 311.

# PLANTING A TREE: how it works ...

## Before You Buy ...

1. **Take a good look at your yard.** Placement should take into account the height, shape, root structure, and resilience of your tree. See the Recommended Tree list below for some common examples.
2. **Make sure you're equipped to transport and plant your new tree.** Trees can be heavy and require substantial digging when planting. If you don't feel confident transporting or planting your tree, consider purchasing a smaller tree, or "whip," or consult a professional for help.
3. **Spring and fall are the best times to plant trees.** Summer planting is not recommended and will reduce the likelihood your tree will survive its first year.

\* Call before you dig! Within Chicago city limits, call "DIGGER" (the Chicago Utility Alert Network) at 312-744-7000

\* Chicago residents who want to plant trees or garden in City-owned parkway may need a permit from the Department of Streets and Sanitation Bureau of Forestry and/or Department of Transportation, visit [www.cityofchicago.org](http://www.cityofchicago.org) for more information.

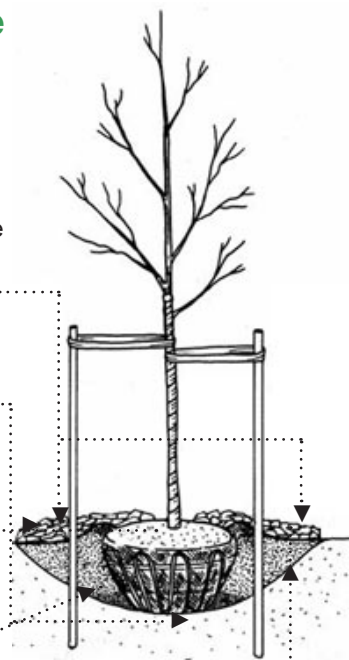
## How To Help Your Tree Survive its First Year

- **Watering** Newly transplanted and young trees require one inch of water per week when in leaf.
- **Mulching** Annual mulching helps keep roots cool in summer and warm in winter. Mulch should be spread in the shape of a saucer at least two or three feet around the base of the tree and should not be mounded up against a tree's trunk.
- **Staking and Wrapping** This step is optional and depends on the species you buy. Check with your garden center or nursery.
- **Pruning** Do not prune during the first year. If pruning cannot be done with both feet on the ground, contact an arborist. Visit the Illinois Arborist Association at [www.illinoisarborist.org](http://www.illinoisarborist.org).

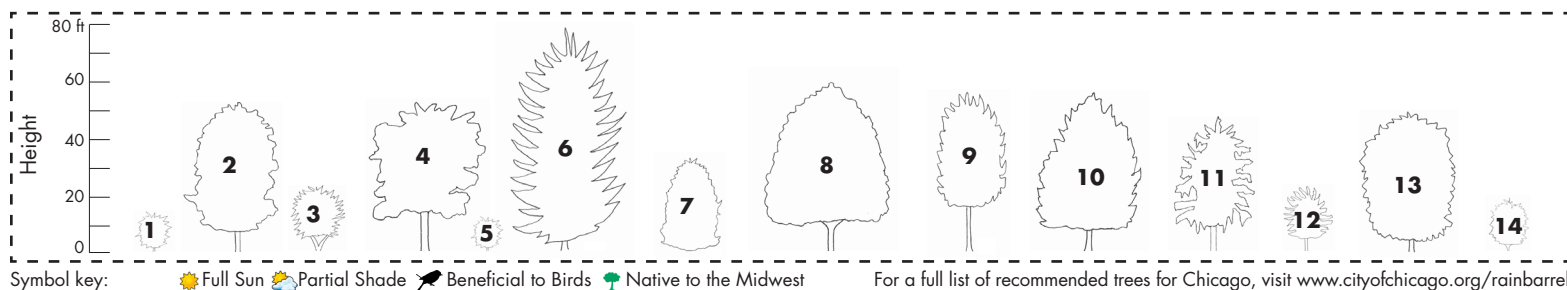
## How to Plant Your Tree

Nursery trees come one of three ways: bare-root, balled and burlapped (B&B) or potted. The B&B method is the most common way.

1. Before digging the planting hole, measure the width and height of the root ball. Your planting hole should be the same depth as the root ball, but three times as wide.
2. Set root ball on undisturbed soil to prevent settling.
3. Once the tree is in the hole, remove any wires or ropes around the burlap and trunk. Fold the burlap back and tuck it in towards the bottom of the root ball.
4. Fill the hole with soil, only up to the trunk, to stabilize; allow the rest of the backfill to settle naturally.
5. Apply 2 to 3 inches of mulch over the root ball and backfill. Keep mulch away from trunk base.



## Recommended Trees For Chicago



Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes	Soil Conditions
1. Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Bright pink edible flowers in early spring, good under power lines	Moist, well-drained
2. Kentucky coffee tree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Very tolerant and adaptable	Wet
3. Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	Spring flowers, good under power lines	Moist, well-drained
4. Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Large shade tree, adaptable to different soils, fruits loved by birds	Tolerant of most soils
5. Blackhaw viburnum	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Spring white flowers, can make a great hedge, good under power lines	Tolerant of most soils
6. Norway spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>	Evergreen shadetree, make a great windbreak	Moist, well-drained
7. Western red cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Cone-like shape keeps without pruning	Wet
8. Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Symmetrical, rounded canopy	Wet
9. Elm	<i>Ulmus x "Morton Glory"</i>	Disease-resistant, golden-yellow fall color, a classic tree	Moist, well-drained to dry
10. American linden	<i>Tilia americana</i>	Fragrant flowers, can be used to make tea	Moist, well-drained
11. Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Upright columnar for narrow spaces, golden-yellow fall color	Moist, well-drained to dry
12. Crabapple	<i>Malus spp. "Prairie Fire"</i>	Spring flowers and green apples, good under power lines	Tolerant of most soils
13. European beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Attractive red fall color	Moist, well-drained soil
14. Cornelian cherry dogwood	<i>Comus mas</i>	Mid-summer cherries, can make a great hedge, good under power lines	Moist, well-drained

# City of Chicago Rebate Form: TREES

Thank you for purchasing a tree and helping improve and expand Chicago's urban forest. Please provide the following information and original itemized receipt to receive your rebate. **Illegible or incomplete forms will not be accepted.**

## Personal Information

(please print clearly to receive your rebate):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: Chicago Zip: 606

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tree planted at: ☐ same address as above

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: Chicago Zip: 606

Where did you hear about this program?

\_\_\_\_\_

Where did you get this rebate form?

\_\_\_\_\_

I pledge the information I have provided is accurate and that I have read and understand the attached information. Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Sign here)

## Tree Information

Where did you purchase your tree(s)?

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Purchase: \_\_\_\_\_

Tree Species: \_\_\_\_\_

How many trees are currently in your yard? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you decide to purchase tree(s)? Check all that apply:

- ☐ I like the way it looks
- ☐ I want to help manage stormwater
- ☐ To increase my property value

Would you have purchased this item if a rebate was not available? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Total Spent: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Rebate Requested (50%, up to \$100): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CUT HERE - Below This Line is for Your Records



## Rebate Information

- Original receipt (be sure receipt clearly indicates purchase) and completed Rebate Form must be post-marked by December 31, 2012. The City of Chicago reserves the right to deny rebate forms with unclear receipts.
- Rebate checks may take up to 3 months to process.
- Rebate amount: 50% off original purchase price, up to \$100 rebate, per household, per year.
- If you have any questions on the rebate process, please call 312.743.9283 or email [rainbarrel@cityofchicago.org](mailto:rainbarrel@cityofchicago.org).
- Maximum rebates: Rain Barrels \$40, Compost Bins \$50, Native Plants \$60, Trees \$100.

To receive your rebate, please complete the top of this form and submit it along with the original receipt by December 31, 2012, to:

**Chicago Sustainable Backyards Program**  
**Chicago Department of Transportation**  
**30 N. LaSalle, 11th Floor**  
**Chicago, IL 60602**

## Rebate Rules/Restrictions

- Rebates are only available to City of Chicago residents and trees must be installed at a Chicago residence. Limit one of each rebate type (rain barrel, compost bin, tree, native plants) per installation address, per year. Residents are encouraged to plant more than one tree and native plant, but should submit all 2012 native plant and tree rebates at once.
- Trees must be purchased between September 1, 2010 and December 31, 2012. Residents are encouraged to purchase more than one tree and native plant, outside the state of Illinois.
- Rebates will not be offered for trees on the banned species list (see the full list at [www.cityofchicago.org/rainbarrel](http://www.cityofchicago.org/rainbarrel)) or trees purchased online or outside the state of Illinois. Rebates are only available for the cost of trees. Other materials, taxes and individual costs will not be applied to rebates.



Rahm Emanuel  
Mayor



# Sustainable Backyards Program: LANDSCAPING TIPS

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR SITE

### LAYOUT

Take a good look at your site. Note the placement of existing plants and trees, paved areas, buildings and power lines. Take a few days to monitor which areas get full or partial sunlight and take note of low spots that tend to collect water during rain storms.

### SOIL

Determine your soil type before you purchase new plants or trees and check with your local garden center for species adapted to your soil type. If you are planning to grow vegetables, build a raised bed or have your soil tested to ensure it is safe for growing vegetables.

### SUN

Before you buy new plants or trees, be sure to note the sunny and shady areas of your yard. Each species has its own sunlight requirement and should be planted accordingly. Look for opportunities to use trees for shading a seating area or the windows of your home.

## CONVENTIONAL LANDSCAPING

- Generates stormwater runoff and puts stress on our sewers while wasting treated water.
- Can be expensive to maintain, requires new planting annually.
- Sometimes includes exotic and invasive species.
- Can require the use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Yearly planting, fertilizing and maintenance generates excess waste.
- Does not promote energy efficiency.
- Often promotes materials shipped from far away at great cost.

## SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING

- Minimizes stormwater runoff and utilizes valuable rainwater for irrigation.
- Minimizes maintenance costs by utilizing perennials & long-term landscape planning.
- Designed with native species that have adapted to survive in our climate and do not require fertilizers or pesticides.
- Native plants maintain 4-season appeal by attracting and sustaining our native birds and other wildlife year-round.
- Low-maintenance means low-waste. The waste generated is composted and reused throughout the landscape.
- Promotes home energy efficiency.
- Supports our local businesses.

## SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING TIPS

- Use locally-sourced and recycled materials where possible.
- Avoid impermeable surfaces. Utilize permeable materials where possible.
- Use homemade compost instead of store-bought fertilizers. See [www.chicagohomecomposting.org](http://www.chicagohomecomposting.org) for more information.
- Practice Integrated Pest Management instead of applying pesticides.\*
- If you choose to keep a lawn, utilize natural lawncare practices. \*See [www.spcweb.org/yards](http://www.spcweb.org/yards) for more information.
- To maximize energy savings, strategically plant trees to serve as wind-blocks in the winter and shade your home in the summer. See [www.landscapeforlife.org](http://www.landscapeforlife.org) for more information.

**50% Off!**

To promote the many ways residents can create more environmentally-friendly landscapes in their yards, the City is offering rebates to Chicago residents for up to 50% off their next local purchase of:

**TREES** (up to \$100 back)

**NATIVE PLANTS** (up to \$60 back)

**COMPOST BIN** (up to \$50 back)

**RAIN BARREL** (up to \$40 back)

