

# SELECTING THE RIGHT TREE

Selecting and planting trees in your yard is as important as the interior design of your home. All too often the tree selected serves the purpose for a short term and never is allowed to mature. The purpose of this pamphlet is to guide you in selecting the proper tree to plant. **REMEMBER** that you are planting for tomorrow.

## SHADE

This is why many people plant trees, and well they should. Trees provide a greater cooling effect than man-made structures. Observation is the best way to determine where to plant to maximize shade.

## WINDBREAKS and SCREENS

Low-branching conifers that hold their foliage are most effective for screening unsightly areas and providing privacy. Noise is best reduced by tall, densely planted trees with fleshy broad leaves. Dust can also be filtered by a combination of conifers and broadleaf trees. Windbreaks can be made most effective through a dense, step-like arrangement of both conifer and deciduous trees. However, for protection on south and east sides of a house, deciduous species work best because they allow incoming solar radiation in winter.

## AESTHETICS

Trees add beauty to the home landscape. Use trees to enhance the house and lot. Trees planted behind the house and to the side will provide background. Trees can also add visual appeal to a patio, pool or play area; or they can be used to separate spaces.

## ACCENTS

A tree with color or some other showy feature can be used as an accent point in your lot.

For a visual accent, select a tree that contrasts with the characteristic landscape in one or more of the design elements - form, size, color or texture.

## SIZE and LOCATION

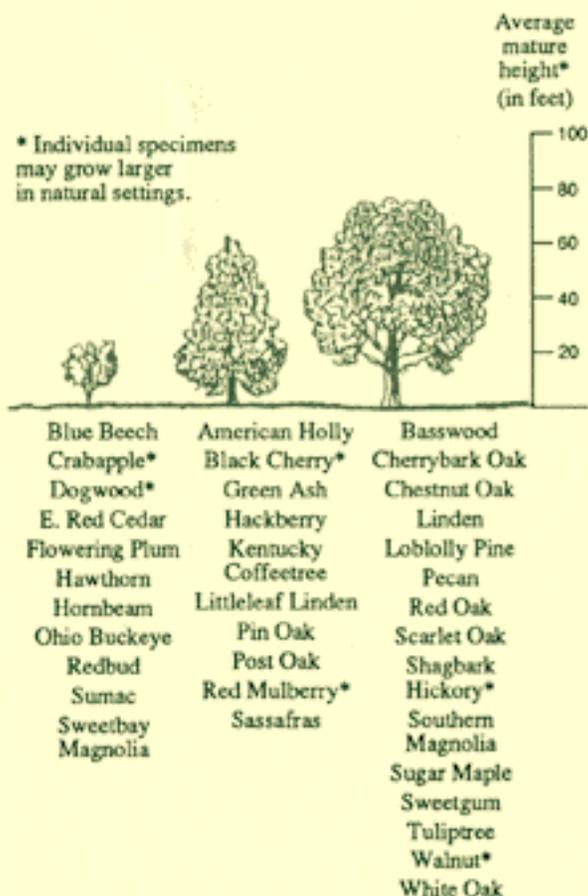
Available space is probably the consideration most often overlooked or misunderstood when deciding what tree to plant. Even for the professional it is often difficult to envision the planting site 5, 10, or 20 years in the future. Yet this is essential. **REMEMBER: Before planting know what the tree will look like as it nears maturity.**

When locating the trees for planting make sure that they do not interfere with:

- Sidewalks or driveways
- Above ground utility lines
- Below ground utilities - water, gas, electrical
- Blocking windows or scenic views
- Outdoor lighting
- Covering chimneys
- Blocking solar collectors
- Encroaching on your neighbor
- Shading gardens

## SPACING GUIDE

	Spacing plant massings	Minimum spacing from wall (1-story building)	Minimum spacing from corner (1-story building)
SMALL TREES 30' or less	6-15'	8-10'	6-8'
MEDIUM TREES 30-70'	30-40'	15'	12'
LARGE TREES 70' or more	40-50'	20'	15'



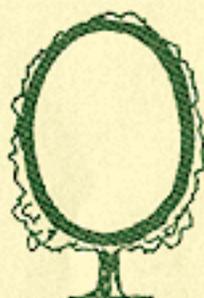
\* Tree contains large or messy fruit.

## CROWN / FORM / SHAPE

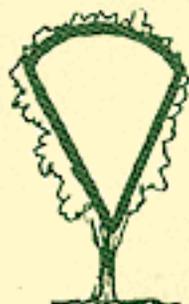
The character of tree crowns and thus the form or shape of trees varies among species as much as leaf shapes or bark patterns. Its shape is another clue to how well it will fit the space you have available, what problems might occur, and how well it will meet the goals you have for your property.



White Oak  
ROUND



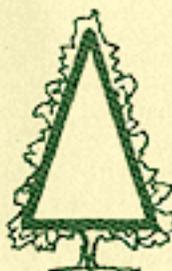
Sugar Maple  
OVAL



Hackberry  
V-SHAPED



Poplar  
COLUMNAR



Pin Oak  
PYRAMIDAL

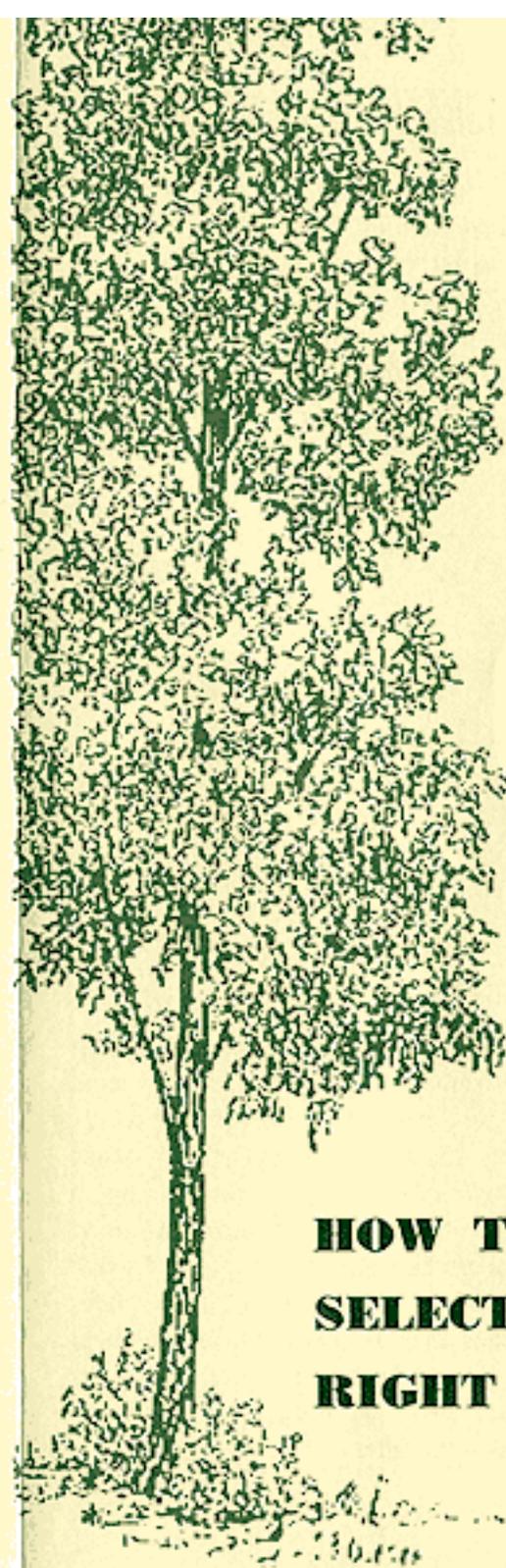
## MAINTENANCE

When selecting a tree, maintenance should be considered. Although you want trees in your yard, you do not want to end up being a slave to them. Some things to consider when selecting trees are:

- Fast growing species will require more long term maintenance than species with moderate or slow growth.
- Will the species selected be prone to insect or disease that would require treatment.
- How resistant to snow and ice breakage are the trees.
- Will the species require major pruning as the tree grows to obtain the shape you desire.
- Will the species require watering during dry weather.
- Is the species deep rooted or shallow rooted.



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**HOW TO  
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