

McPherson, Kansas



Trees along our streets and in our yards provide each of us with a number of benefits often taken for granted. Consider the contributions trees make in our daily lives: beauty, increased property values, shade on hot summer days, shelter from winds in the winter and summer, reduced glare from pavements and buildings, privacy from objectionable views and noises, air purification, a source of fruits and scents, wildlife habitat, wood products and many others.

The City of McPherson and the City Tree Board have prepared this brochure for you. The information will assist you with proper site and plant selection, proper planting techniques and follow-up care.

The McPherson Tree Board has made it possible for you to participate in the City's "Tree Planting and Replacement" programs. Residents of McPherson are eligible to take advantage of Tree Board projects which help promote the "greening up" of our community.

The Tree Board is made up of seven residents who regularly meet to discuss issues concerning our urban forest. The goals of the board are three-fold:

- 1) Education
- 2) Reforestation of the city
- 3) Public awareness of tree care, which also supports our local tree care organizations; including nurseries and tree service companies.

For our urban forest to prosper, your support is needed. Planting new trees, improved maintenance of existing trees or direct participation in the city's "Tree Planting and Replacement" programs can significantly help in insuring a more attractive and functional urban forest in McPherson for all of us to enjoy today and in the future.

City of McPherson
City Forester
McPherson City Tree Board

Where to Plant...

Before choosing a tree, decide what purpose it will serve. Will it be a landscape accent, for shade or for screening? Then decide exactly where it will be planted – you will need to allow plenty of room for growth and to avoid future maintenance problems or damage.

The City of McPherson has a street tree ordinance which restricts planting in public rights-of-way and near any overhead primary or secondary utility wire.

Visit kansasoncall.com or call 811 to have underground utilities located prior to planting.

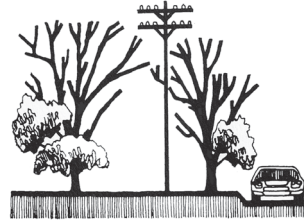
Above ground concerns include limited space for crown development due to buildings, utility lines and other trees.

Remember, a key to good site and plant selection is to consider the size of the plant at maturity, not what the plant looks like when you purchase it. Some common problems associated with poor site and plant selection are:

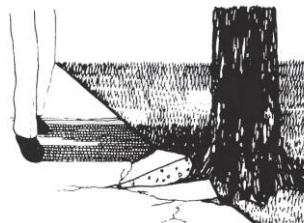


- Low hanging limbs interfere with pedestrian and vehicular safety and height clearance.

- Planting under or near overhead utility wires is subject to City Ordinance. The ordinance states that no tree may be planted within 15 lateral feet of any overhead utility wire, except for those that will not exceed 20 feet in height at maturity.



- Planting at or near intersections can cause traffic hazards and is subject to City Ordinance. Check with the city before planting in these areas.

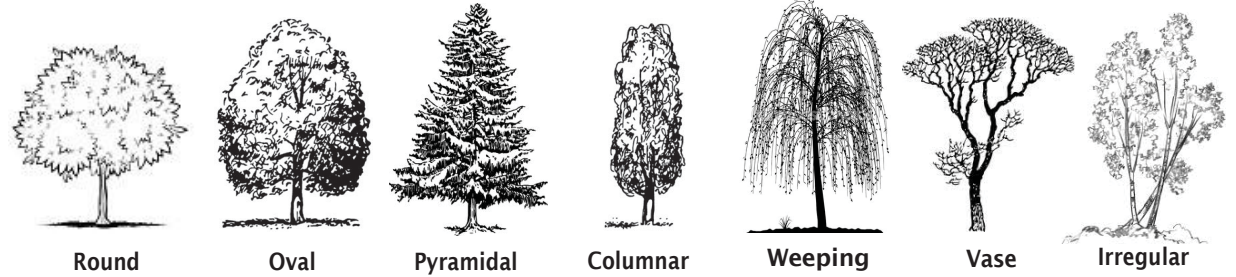


- Trees planted adjacent to sidewalks, curbs and streets can result in damage to both the tree and structure and may be costly to the homeowner. As stated in City Ordinance, no tree may be planted within three feet of these paved surfaces.

Selecting the Correct Tree

The first step in selecting a tree for your home is that it must be adaptable to the growing conditions in your area. Soil conditions such as type and moisture holding capacity are also determining factors. Wind and sun exposure should be considered, as well.

Trees develop into a variety of sizes and shapes. The illustrations below demonstrate the diverse shapes different species of trees acquire. The location you decide to plant will determine what size and form of tree you can use successfully.



The checklist below should help you in properly selecting the right tree for the right place.

1. Is the plant adaptable to your local conditions?
2. What size plant (at maturity) will satisfy your needs?
3. What size, height, and spread of branches will the plant attain at maturity?
4. What shape (at maturity) do you want?
5. What leaf and flower colors do you want?
6. Will you plant in direct sun or shade?

How to Plant...

The difference between success and failure depends on your willingness to spend a little more time and effort in the planting and follow-up care of your new plant.

Protect your new plant from the time you pick it up at the nursery until it is planted. Keep the plant in a cool protected location, out of direct wind and sun. Keep the rootball moist at all times. Carry the tree by the rootball, do not use the trunk as a handle.

Make a watering basin at least 30 inches in diameter. Construct a four- to six-inch high rim to retain moisture. Water your new tree slowly to ensure soaking the entire rootball. A four to six inch layer of mulch around the base of the tree or shrub will help to retain moisture in the soil.



Preparation of the planting hole: Dig the hole twice the diameter of the ball. Place the tree in the hole so that it sets at the same height in relation to the soil line as it grew in the nursery. Remove all plastic or metal containers completely. On balled and burlap stock, carefully remove any twine and the burlap. Tamp the backfill in lightly with your heel to eliminate air pockets. If support is needed, install the stakes at the same time you plant the tree. Don't drive the stakes through the rootball. Old pieces of garden hose should be used to protect the trunk from possible cutting action by the guy wires. The staking should be checked periodically for damage to the trunk and be removed as soon as the tree has stabilized.



COMMON NAME	HEIGHT (in feet)	SPREAD (in feet)	NOTES:
Amur Maple	15-20	15-25	Good fall color, drought tolerant
Bald Cypress	50-70	30-50	Good fall color, drought tolerant, pest resistant
Birch, River	50-70	40-50	Fall color, most adaptable Birch
Cherry, Ornamental	20-40	20-30	Many varieties, beautiful blossoms
Crabapple, Flowering	15-25	15-25	Many varieties available
Elm, American	60-80	40-60	Fall color, drought tolerant
Elm, Lacebark	40-60	35-50	Resists disease & Elm Leaf Beetle
Ginkgo	40-60	30-40	Good fall color, interesting leaf, plant male tree
Goldenrain Tree	30-40	30-40	Yellow flowers in June, fall color
Hawthorn, Thornless Cockspur	20-25	20-25	Red fruits, white flowers
Hawthorn, Washington	15-20	15-20	Thorny, fruit
Honeylocust, Thornless	40-50	30-50	Many varieties
Kentucky Coffee Tree	40-50	30-35	Fall color, large seed pods
Linden, American	40-60	35-40	Good shade
Linden, Littleleaf	50-60	25-40	Resists disease
London Plane Tree	60-80	50-60	Same appearance as Sycamore
Maple, Red	40-60	35-50	Good fall color
Maple, Sugar 'Caddo'	40-60	30-50	Good fall color
Maple, Trident	20-35	20-30	Fall color
Oak, Bur	50-70	50-70	Native tree
Oak, Chinkapin	35-40	40-45	Fall color, adaptable to most soils, pest resistant
Oak, English	40-60	45-65	Adaptable to most soils
Oak, Red	60-80	40-50	Good shade, attractive fall color
Oak, Sawtooth	35-45	40-50	Fast growing, resistant to pests
Oak, Shingle	50-60	40-60	Fall color, drought tolerant
Oak, Shumard's Red	60-80	40-60	Adaptable to most soils
Oak, Swamp White	50-60	40-60	Wet soil, fall color
Oak, White	50-60	40-60	Fall color, drought tolerant, pest resistant
Oak, Willow	50-60	30-40	Drought tolerant
Osage Orange	30-40	20-40	Fruitless, thornless cultivars only
Sweetgum	60-80	30-50	Fall color, interesting bark

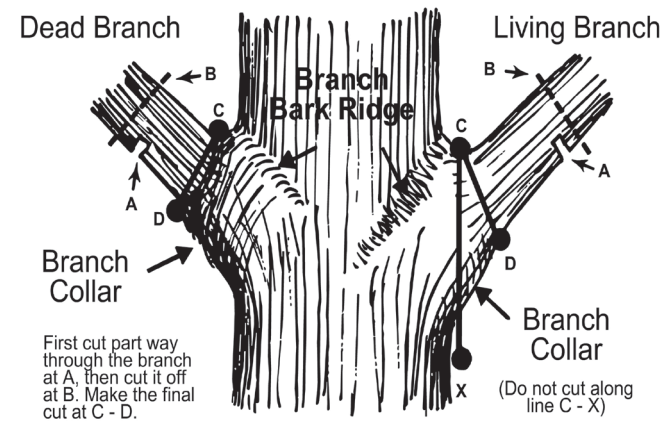
How do I keep my trees healthy?

Your new tree should receive close attention for at least the first two years after planting. Prune any dead or damaged limbs immediately after the plant has been installed. Refer to pruning guide below to help make proper pruning cuts.

Later in your tree's life, it will require occasional pruning and possible spraying for insects and disease. Get to know your tree! This will enable you to detect problems later, should any develop. If you should notice feeding injury by insects, leaf problems, branch dieback or anything unusual, contact area tree experts. It is best to get more than one opinion on what the problem is and how to correct it, before you invest any money.

Watering will be the most important requirement for your new plant for the next two years. Slow deep waterings are the best. Moisture is needed 10 to 24 inches below the surface to reach all the roots. During periods of hot and dry weather, more frequent applications of water will be needed.

Pruning Guide



Where Can I Find Out More?

1. McPherson County Extension Service (620) 241-1523.
2. McPherson City Forester (620) 755-2927.
3. Local nurseries, garden centers and tree service companies.

McPherson Tree Guide

Photo by Darla Anderson



400 E. Kansas Ave. • McPherson, KS 67460
City Forester