

# TREE/SHRUB SELECTION GUIDE

A good root system must be developed before trees & shrubs reach their indicated growth rates. Most trees & shrubs grow slowly for 1-3 years after planting or transplanting and more rapidly after their root system becomes developed. Generally, trees & shrubs with Rapid to Moderate growth rates reach 5-6 feet tall in 7-9 years. Those with Moderate to Slow growth rates reach 5-6 feet tall in 9-11 years. Soils, weather, animal or other damage, weed and grass competition, and general care will also affect growth rates.

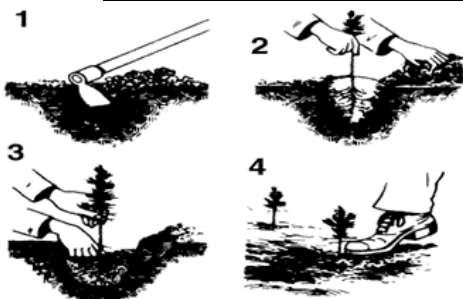
**Pictures of trees & shrubs are on the Conservation District web site at: [www.livingstoncd.org](http://www.livingstoncd.org)**

Tree/Shrub Information Chart	Growth Rate			Soils			Soil Moisture				Shade Tolerance			Mature Height In Feet	Common Uses & Characteristics							Origin I = Introduced	Deer Damage Potential L = Low, M = Medium, H = High	Notes	
	Rapid 10-15" yr.	Moderate 6-12" yr.	Slow 0-8" yr.	Sand	Loam	Clay	Dry-Moist	Moist	Moist-Wet	Wet	Full sunlight	Partial Shade	Full Shade		Christmas Trees	Erosion Control	Flowering or Fall Color	Lumber/Veneer	Nuts	Reforestation	Shade				Wildlife
<b>Species</b>																									
White Pine	X			X	X		X	X	X		X	X		80-100	X	X		X		X	X			H	Michigan State Tree
Scots Highland Pine	X			X	X		X	X			X			60-80	X	X				X	X	X		H	Popular Christmas Tree
Colorado Blue Spruce			X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X		40-60	X					X	X	X	I	L	Beautiful blue
Norway Spruce	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X		60-80	X					X	X	X	I	L	Fast growing
White Spruce		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X		60-80	X					X	X	X		L	Year-round color
Concolor Fir		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		30-50	X		X						I	H	Ornamental/lumber
Red Maple	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		60-70		X	X			X	X			M	Bright fall color
Sugar Maple		X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X		60-80		X	X			X				M	Sap used for syrup
Douglas Fir		X		X	X		X	X			X	X		40-70	X		X		X	X	X			M	In demand for lumber
Red Oak	X			X	X	X	X	X			X			60-75		X	X	X		X	X			M	Lumber/shade/leaves
White Oak		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			50-80		X	X	X		X	X	X		M	Beautiful shade tree
Black Walnut		X		X	X	X	X	X			X			50-75		X	X	X		X				M	Quality lumber & nuts
White Flowering Dogwood	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X		6-10		X					X			M	White flowers
Tulip Poplar	X			X	X	X	X	X			X			70-90		X				X				M	Yellow flowers
Lilac		X		X	X		X	X			X			8-15		X							I	M	Flowers & berries

**Native to Michigan**

## TREE/SHRUB SPACING RECOMMENDATIONS

USE	SHRUBS	CONIFERS	HARDWOODS	TREES/ACRE BY SPACING		
Erosion Control	6' X 6'	6' X 6'	NA			
Reforestation	NA	8' X 10'	12' X 12'	6' X 6' 1,210/Ac.	8' X 8' 681/Ac.	
Windbreaks: at least 1 row of shrubs, 2 rows of trees	6 - 10' between shrubs	16 - 20' between trees & rows	NA	8' X 10' 545/Ac.	10' X 10' 436/Ac.	12' X 12' 300/Ac.



### Tree Planting Steps

Dig hole large enough to hold the root's full length.  
 Spread seedling roots outward and downward keeping root collar at grade.  
 Backfill dirt and tamp around roots.  
 Water and mulch.

Reference:  
[http://forestry.about.com/od/treeandforestcare/ss/plant\\_broot\\_3.htm](http://forestry.about.com/od/treeandforestcare/ss/plant_broot_3.htm)