



# 2020 TREE PROGRAM

Department of Public Works 516-678-9288

THE VILLAGE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR 32 CONSECUTIVE YEARS BY THE NATIONAL ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION AS A "TREE CITY USA"



## Frequently Asked Questions

**WHEN CAN I ORDER AND WHEN WILL MY TREE BE DELIVERED/PLANTED?** You can order trees now through September 11, 2020. Trees will be delivered/planted late November/early December.

**IS MY TREE GUARANTEED?** Trees are guaranteed for one year. If the tree you purchased dies within a year, it will be replaced with a new tree for free. After the first year, the homeowner is responsible for all maintenance of the trees.

**WHY DOES THE VILLAGE OFFER YOUNG TREES AND NOT LARGER ONES?** The Village offers trees that are 2 to 2 1/2" in diameter for the following reasons: price, survivability, root ball size and growth rate. Price: Trees that are this size are economical. As trees get larger, their price goes up disproportionately to their size. Survivability: Trees of this size transplant very well and have a very high rate of survivability. Root ball size: Trees of this size have root balls which fit comfortably between the curb and sidewalk. Growth rate: Smaller transplant trees recover faster from transplant shock and begin growing faster than larger trees. Please keep the mature tree in mind when spacing plantings.

**CAN I ORDER A TREE FOR LOCATIONS OTHER THAN MY CURB?** While the Village can only plant trees on the strip between the sidewalk and the curb, you are welcome to purchase trees, which will be delivered directly to you, to be planted elsewhere on your property. The price for the tree only is \$250 and the price for the tree and planting is \$350.

**TREE INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT:** In fall of 2019, funded by a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, ArborPro an Urban Forest Management Company, completed a tree inventory of the Village park and curbside trees. 91.8% of the Village trees were observed to be in fair or better condition. Homeowners with poor or dead trees that were recommended for removal will be contacted by the Village. A healthy urban forest is essential to maintaining the character of the Village and benefits the environment as well as property values. Planting new trees will help ensure that the Village has a healthy urban canopy for years to come. The inventory showed that Rockville Centre has an overabundance of Norway Maple and ornamental pear trees which leaves the Village trees susceptible to future outbreaks of insects and diseases. It is recommended that planting of these types of trees be discontinued. Suggested small to medium trees for new plantings include Canada Red Select Cherry, Plum, Hornbeam, Cornelian Cherry Dogwood and Japanese Tree Lilac. Suggested large trees for new plantings (not recommended for curb strips) include Horsechestnut, Black Alder, Northern Catalpa and Gingko. Once planted, tree maintenance, including mulching, watering and pruning, is very important. Please refer to opposite page for more information on these critical steps in maintaining your trees.

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## 2020 TREE PLANTING FORM

I am requesting the Village of Rockville Centre to supply and plant a tree on the curb strip at the following location:

ADDRESS INCLUDING SECTION, BLOCK, LOT

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

QUANTITY  
Canada Red  
Select  
Cherry

QUANTITY  
Flowering  
Plum

QUANTITY  
Honey  
Locust  
Thornless

Tree only (\$250 each): \_\_\_\_\_

Tree & planting (\$350 each): \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

QUANTITY  
Pyramidal  
European  
Hornbeam

QUANTITY  
Sugar  
Maple

QUANTITY  
Yoshino  
Cherry

Please make checks payable to the Village of Rockville Centre and mail to Rockville Centre DPW/Trees, P.O. Box 950, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

I agree to be responsible for maintenance of the tree(s), in accordance with Sections 122-1 and 122-2 of the Village Code.

PROPERTY OWNER'S SIGNATURE

DATE

Thank you for participating in our tree program. You are helping to restore the urban tree canopy of Long Island. Future generations thank you for creating shade, cleaning our air, purifying our water supply and beautifying our neighborhoods.

## 2020 TREE VARIETIES OF CHOICE

Depending on demand, substitutions may have to be made. You will be contacted to confirm any change.

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**Canada Red Select Cherry (*Prunus Virginiana*)** The green Spring foliage turns a colorful, reddish purple that lasts all season. Fragrant, small, white flowers are produced in late Spring. Beautiful form features straight trunk and uniform top. Looks great all year long. This tree grows to 20 ft. with a 15 ft. spread. The fruits range in color from bright red to black, and possess a very astringent taste, being both somewhat sour and somewhat bitter. When very ripe, the drupe is dark in color and less astringent and sweeter than when red and unripe.



**Flowering Plum (*Prunus Cerasifera*)** These small trees reaching 25 to 40 feet tall, sometimes spiny with glabrous, ovate deciduous leaves 1.5 to 2.5 inches long. It is one of the first European trees to flower in Spring, often starting in mid-February before the leaves have opened. The flowers are white or pale pink and about 0.8 inches across with five petals and many stamens. The fruit is an edible drupe ripening to yellow or red from early July to mid-September. The cherry plum is a popular ornamental tree for garden and landscaping use, grown for its very early flowering.



**Honey Locust Thornless (*Gleditsia*)** The honey locust can reach a height of 66 to 98 ft. with fast growth and is relatively short-lived, having a life span of about 120 years. The leaves are pinnately compound on older trees but bipinnately compound on vigorous young trees. The leaflets are  $\frac{5}{8}$ –1 in. and bright green. They turn yellow in the Fall. Honey Locusts leaf out relatively late in Spring. The strongly scented cream-colored flowers appear in late Spring in clusters emerging from the base of the leaf axils.



**Pyramidal European Hornbeam (*Carpinus Betula Fastigiata*)** Pyramidal European Hornbeam is unique in its symmetrical and formal appearance. It is known for being particularly heat, drought, disease, and pest resistant. Pyramidal European Hornbeam has forest green foliage throughout the season. The pointy leaves turn yellow in Fall. It has a unique narrow and formal appearance. Because of its size, it should be planted at least 15 ft. from buildings. This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions.



**Sugar Maple (*Acer Saccharum*)** The Sugar Maple tree is a landscape standout. Medium to dark-green leaves. The fall color is often spectacular, ranging from bright yellow on some trees through orange to fluorescent red-orange on others. Sugar maples also have a tendency to color unevenly in fall. In some trees, all colors above can be seen at the same time. Acer saccharum is among the most shade tolerant of large deciduous trees. turn yellow, burnt orange or red in fall. Tolerates shade, likes a well-drained, moderately moist, fertile soil. Do not plant in confined areas or where salt is a problem. Grows to 60' to 75', 40'-50' spread.



**Yoshino Cherry (*Prunus Yedoensis*)** is a small, deciduous tree that grows to be 16–39 ft. tall. It does well in full sun and moist but well drained soil. The flowers emerge before the leaves in early spring; they are fragrant with five white or pale pink petals. The fruit, a small cherry, is a globose drupe less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter; they are an important source of food for many small birds and mammals including robins and thrushes. The fruit contain little flesh and much concentrated red juice, which can stain clothing and brick.

## CARING FOR YOUR NEW TREES

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### MULCH YOUR TREE

Maintain a 2 to 3 ft. wide ring of mulch around the tree (the wider the better). This will help keep moisture in the soil and prevent damage from mowers and other equipment. Organic matter like wood chips or leaves are best as these will become soil over time. Wood chips will not require replacement as often as leaves. Do not pile mulch against trunk of tree (“volcano mulching”) and never use more than 4 inches of mulch as this may inhibit oxygen from reaching the roots and have other damaging impacts. A 5-page layer of newspaper covered with mulch will eliminate any grass in the surrounding area.

### WATER YOUR TREE

Survival is greatly dependent on providing the right amount of water. Soils that drain quickly will require more frequent watering than those that drain slowly. For the first three years, from April to October provide 10 to 15 gallons of water once per week. During hot/dry weather (July and August) provide 15 to 20 gallons twice a week. Tip: Allow the area inside the mulch ring to fill up completely and drain twice. The following year’s watering will be dependent upon soil type and weather conditions, so irrigation schedule and watering amount may vary. Soil saturated with water for more than 24 hours can prevent roots from getting oxygen. Therefore, watering too much is as dangerous as watering too little (and is harder to correct).

### PRUNE YOUR TREE

Commencing 2 years after planting, prune lightly every year or every other year. Pruning should be done during the winter as branches are easier to see, diseases are less likely to spread, and there is minimal stress to the tree. Do not remove more than 25% of the tree’s live branches at any one time. Removal of broken, dead and rubbing branches can be done each year. Branches sprouting from the base can also be done yearly. Never top your tree. This immediately damages trees and increases chance of decay, insect infestation, and disease. It also greatly reduces the stability and structural soundness of the tree resulting in a significantly reduced life span.