

Tips for Planting

Murphy Westwood, global tree expert at the Morton Arboretum, has some words of advice.

Plan. Make a studied decision about where and what to plant. Trees need a lot of room to spread their roots, but some do better in close quarters than others.

Go Native. Native plants are already adapted to the local environment and require less water, save time and money, and provide habitat for animals, birds, and insects.

Diversify. Don't keep up with the Jones. "If you love the tree in your neighbor's yard, plant something different, because you will increase the chances of those trees surviving in the future," says Westwood. "Having diversity in your urban forest makes it more resilient to things like climate change and invasive pests and diseases."

