

## Tree Planting

Trees can provide more than just shade. Trees are planted for a number of reasons including aesthetic purposes, increased property value, and habitat restoration. The shade from trees planted next to a house can reduce summer cooling costs by up to 40 percent.

Many homeowners plant trees because trees are a way to beautify property. A well treed lot can be sold for 20 to 40 percent more than a bare lot. Trees are not only important aesthetically, but are also important for habitat restoration. Many species depend on trees for a place to live and feed. As part of habitat restoration, trees act as a buffer. Trees and other vegetation filter out pollutants before the pollutants can reach a nearby body of water.



*Image credit: <http://www.arborday.org>*

### Tips for Planting Trees

- Determine the location and purpose for planting the tree. This will aid you in deciding the species of tree to plant.
- If planting for aesthetic purposes, choose species that bloom throughout the year or have interesting foliage or bark.
- When restoring habitat, plant native tree species.

### Where To Get Help for tree planting

- Step-by-Step Tree Planting Tips; <http://www.delawareestuary.org/pdf/HomeownersGuideSWMgmt.pdf>
- Native Trees and Shrubs; <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/trees.html>
- Pesticide Alternatives; <http://www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/tip1.pdf>

## Wildflower Meadows

Wildflower meadows can be useful in storm water management, increasing infiltration, water quality treatment, flood control, and habitat creation. Wildflower meadows require less water and fertilizers than lawns, saving time and money.

Proper site selection is important. The site should have 6 hours of sunlight per day and be dry and flat. Previously cultivated land like a garden is best, but a lawn can also be transformed into a wildflower meadow. The site should be prepared by removing vegetation. The preparation is much like the preparation for a vegetable garden.

Plant selection must also be given careful consideration. The selected species must be well suited to survive in the conditions present (moisture and temperature needs, etc.). A diversity of species is important, and the species should consist of native plants currently found in the area. A mix of graminoides (grasses) and forbs (flowering meadow wildflowers) is recommended.



Planting should take place in spring, early summer, or early fall. Planting in spring will favor grasses, and planting in fall will favor forbs. The newly planted meadow should be watered like a newly planted lawn for the first 1 to 2 months. For 1 year after planting, do not allow weeds to reach more than one foot before cutting to 4-6 inches. In the second year, cut back to 1 foot since the plants will be larger. For the following years, mow close to the ground in late fall or early spring.

### Tips for Planting Wildflower Meadows

- For the first two years, weeds will grow faster than wildflowers. Do not pull weeds; this may damage the wildflower seedlings. Weeds can be smothered with black plastic prior to planting.
- To ensure a heavy bloom, sow seeds at a rate higher than recommended.
- Do not use herbicides. The drift from herbicides may kill large patches of wildflowers along with weeds.

### Where To Get Help for wildflower meadow information

- How to Create Your Own Wildflower Meadow;  
<http://www.gardenguides.com/how-to/tipstechniques/flowers/wildflowermeadow.asp>
- Creating a Wild Backyard-Wildflower Meadows;  
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/wawildflowers.asp>

## Planters

Consider the use of planters to reduce impervious surface. The construction of houses, driveways, sidewalks, and roads all contribute to the increase of impervious surfaces and greatly reduce the amount of rainwater that can be absorbed by the soil. The use of planters allows rainwater to be absorbed that would otherwise become unfiltered runoff.

Planters can range from large concrete planters to small plastic pots. Planters can be placed on sidewalks, in backyards, on rooftops, or along the perimeter of a home to catch rooftop runoff. Planters can contain any variety of plants ranging from flowers to small shrubs and trees. All plants chosen should be native species that are both drought resistant and tolerant of large quantities of water.



### Where To Get Help for planter information

- Growing Hanging Plants; <http://extension.umd.edu/publications/PDFs/FS568.pdf>
- For suggestions and tips about planters visit <http://www.hgtv.com> or <http://www.diynetwork.com>