



Tree/Shrub Planting

Information Sources: USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and Arborday.org

Benefits of tree/shrub establishment:

- Help long-term erosion control and improve water quality.
- Improve or restore natural diversity.
- Enhance the beauty of yards and neighborhoods.
- Increase property values.
- Provide valuable wildlife habitat.
- Reduce energy use.

Why plant trees and shrubs?

Rain refreshes the land and nourishes our landscape. But as buildings, roads, and parking lots spread and natural tree cover is lost, so is the absorbing effect of vegetation and soil. Without the benefit of trees and shrubs, water quality in our streams, rivers, and lakes can decline. One of the most overlooked and underappreciated services of trees and shrubs is their ability to reduce the volume of water rushing through gutters and pipes following a storm. Through the collective action of leaves and the anchoring and absorbing effects of roots, trees and shrubs also contribute to soil stabilization, cleaner water and the recharge of groundwater. They also provide vital wildlife habitat, help clean our air and contribute to our health and happiness.



Natural Resource Conservation Service photo by Jim Archambault.

Considerations

- Before beginning any project, check homeowner association covenants, as well as local and county ordinances. Do not work in a drainage, utility, or other easement without the proper permits. Contact Indiana's "Call Before You Dig" phone center (811 or 1-800-382-5544) to identify any buried utilities.
- Tree/shrub establishment can be applied on any appropriately prepared site where woody plants can be grown.
- Woody plants should be established without compromising the integrity of property lines, fences, utilities, roads, legal drains, and other easement areas or right of ways. Do not plant directly over a septic system.
- Native trees should be planted since they are the ones that were growing in Indiana long before we settled here. These species are tolerant of Indiana's climate, benefit our native wildlife, and require less maintenance than their exotic counterparts. The species you choose should be based on your site conditions for soils, light, and moisture.
- Bare root seedlings are the most economical and successful method for tree/shrub establishment.
- Plans and specifications for tree/shrub establishment will be prepared for each site in accordance with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) criteria for this practice. This includes planting, dates, site preparation, weed control methods, designed plant spacing, species, type of stock used and planting and storage guidelines. Additional years of weed control and protection from disease, rodents, deer, and insects may also be required.

Contact the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District for more information, assistance in designing your rain garden, supplier info, and info on possible cost share assistance:

Peachtree Plaza 200
1220 North 200 West STE L
Angola, IN 46703
260.665.3211, ext. 3
www.steubenswcd.org