

## SELECTING TREES FOR THE HOME LANDSCAPE

The planting of woody trees and shrubs in the home landscape is not only fun, but a direct investment in the value of the property. For some people, selecting a tree is easy, but for others, the sheer variety of trees available is confusing. Below are important issues to consider when planning a tree purchase. After reading this, please refer to several excellent websites and publications at the end of this article for additional help. And of course, our expert gardening professionals are only a phone call away.

### **Let's consider a few questions concerning trees in the landscape:**

- How much space is there for the tree? Will it still fit in this space in ten or twenty years?
- Are there service wires overhead, or sewer/utility lines underground to avoid?
- Tree roots spread at least as far as the branches above ground, is there enough root area for the tree to grow?
- Does the plant drop a lot of fruit or seeds that may be a problem near decks or pools?
- How many hours of sun per day does the spot get? Does that match the desired trees needs?
- Is the tree serving a special purpose, such as privacy or home energy conservation ?

Once you have the selection whittled down to a small group of trees, it is appropriate to consult with a nursery professional. In the nursery trade, there can be many 'varieties' of trees. Just as in the paint store there are innumerable shades of 'Green', in the garden center, you will not find just a Red Maple, but usually several varieties of Red Maple, each promoting a certain advantage, such as nice fall color, narrow growth habit, or seedless character. This is where the nursery person can help select the current variety that is best.

Trees are also divided into deciduous or evergreen trees. Pines, Spruces, and Firs are evergreen trees with needles or scale-like leaves which stay on the tree year round. Deciduous trees drop their leaves or needles in the fall each year and re-grow them again in the spring. This can be an important consideration when planning a planting for privacy or home energy conservation.

We hope the tree lists on the following pages are helpful. These lists are also general guidelines. Our nursery has access the hundreds of supplier nurseries across the U.S. and thousands of varieties of trees. Specific or hard to find varieties can be special ordered.

### **LEARN MORE: Just a few of the excellent print and online resources:**

WWW.OHIOLINE.OSU.EDU : Great fact sheets on home gardening topics.

WWW.PLANTS.USDA.GOV : Good information on plants from the U.S. Depart. Of Agriculture.

WWW.DAVESGARDEN.COM : A big maze of a site on all gardening issues

**Tree and Shrub Gardening for Ohio** by Fred Hower and A. Beck, 2004 Lone Pine Press. Good book.

**Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs**, by Michael Dirr. The standard reference for woody plants in print today.