



# Fall is here, but it's not too late! Fall tree planting is great timing

Planting trees is a landscaping activity that can still be completed even though cold and snow are just around the corner.

Planting trees in the fall can be good timing for several reasons: 1) leftover nursery stock is usually on sale or discounted; 2) there is potentially more time in your schedule to make tree planting a priority with other activities winding down for the year; 3) trees are starting to go into dormancy and potentially will not be as stressed from planting.

## Planting Preparations

The same principles and care should be applied whether planting trees in the fall, spring, or summer. For more detailed instructions, go to [barnyardsandbackyards.com](http://barnyardsandbackyards.com) and click on Landscaping, then

Trees & Shrubs – Care for these two articles: “How to successfully plant a tree or shrub” (summer 2007) and “Successful tree planting strategies” (spring 2005).

Contact “One Call of Wyoming,” 811, to ensure there are no obstructions before you dig or that the tree could come into contact with later.

Select a quality tree that will fit the planting area space and environment. If the tree you are considering still has its leaves, examine them to determine if the tree is diseased. Often, trees purchased in the fall have already lost their leaves or might have changed color. Avoid planting a tree with no leaves and an unknown history.

Closely examine the main trunk, branches, and leaves. Are the leaves brown because of the time of year, or does it appear there were insect or



disease problems? Do all of the branches and stems appear flexible and alive? Does the tree look like it sustained lots of physical damage during the growing season?

### Planting the tree

Once a tree has been selected with good physical attributes, it is time to plant. Trees need to make their transition from one growing condition to another as easily as possible. The two articles mentioned above provide an excellent guide for how to do this. After planting, put at least 3 inches of mulch around the

base of the tree and protect it from human and wildlife damage. Trees should be watered at least once a week by wetting the entire soil profile of the tree roots.

Most tree plantings occur in spring so trees can be enjoyed and cared for during the summer, but don't rule out fall for planting. Your local University of Wyoming Extension office can provide more information on types of trees that grow well in your area and any special local considerations. A test of the soil where the tree is being planted is also a good idea.

Information about testing and laboratories is available at your local county extension office.

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photos: Brian Sebade



*The same principles apply for planting a tree in the fall as a tree in the spring.*



*A layer of mulch is important to help conserve water and protect the newly planted tree roots during the winter.*



*Insect and disease issues can be very difficult to detect for trees purchased without leaves.*