



THE LANDSCAPE CONSULTANTS

Your design and installation team



Beating the Summer Heat with Shade Trees

I would like to remind you how important shade trees are in the landscape. Not only do they shade us as we sit under them on a hot July day, they also shade the house and reduce the heat gain by 40 to 80%, which can be a great energy saver. Deciduous trees are the best choice for shade trees as they provide shade in the summer months, but drop their leaves in the winter and allow the sun's added warmth at the house.

The placement of the shade tree is very important as to how well it will help reduce the temperature and save energy in the house. Trees should be planted on the southwest and western sides of the house, as this will give you the most effective coverage from the most intense sun during the hottest part of the day. Trees that are planted on the south and east sides will also help to shade the house.

Trees also need to have their own space, so before you dig in, check out the shade trees that are available so you are sure to get the one that is best suited to your yard. Trees need to be planted away from house foundation, sidewalks, patios and driveways. The mature size of the tree will determine how far you need to plant from the hard surfaces. Large trees like Oaks should be at least 15 feet away from the house or hard surfaces, smaller trees such as Lilacs could be much closer. You may have other areas in your yard that you may need shade, perhaps a small seating area in the back corner of the yard. Here is a list of some of the popular shade trees and their mature heights.

Shade Trees

Styrax japonica – Japanese Snowbell - grows to 20' upright form

Syringa reticulata – Lilac – 25' small tree, oval form

Tilia cordata – Linden – 40' narrow, pyramidal crown

Sorbus - Mountain Ash – 35' showy red-orange fruit

Parrotia persica – 40' oval, rounded upright form

Malus – Crabapple – 25' upright spreading form

Oxydendron arboreum – Sourwood – 30' pyramidal tree, pendulous branches

Hibiscus syriacus – Rose of Sharon – 10' small tree form of bush

Ginkgo biloba – Ginkgo – 45' upright, columnar form

Gleditsia triacanthos – Honeylocust – 50' fast growing

Fagus sylvatica – Beech – 45' upright, narrow form

Crataegus – Hawthorn – 25' small, dense, thorny trees

Cercis canadensis – Redbud – 30' rounded habit

Cornus - Dogwood – 30' oval form, upright tree

Betula – Birch – 40' irregular rounded habit

Acer Rubrum – Red Maple – 40' round crown