

Trees in the Landscape

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Functionally trees are used to

1. Frame a view
 - a. looking from your house
 - b. looking at you house
2. Frame your house
3. Mask architectural awkwardness
4. Provide shade
5. Add color and interest
6. Screen a view of that people may see your house from
7. Attract wild life

Physical features

1. Flowers
2. Fruit
3. Foliage color
 - a. summer
 - b. fall
4. Texture
5. Form
6. Bark

Where to plant a tree

If none of the functional aspects as listed above seem to fit, use your judgment or feel. A few rules:

1. Know how big the tree will get. The Maple with a 10' spread at time of purchase can quickly grow to 30' spread.
2. Avoid fast growing, weak wooded trees (Willows, Silver Maple, Siberian Elms, Popples, etc.)
3. Plant no closer than 12-14 feet from your house
4. Remember that deciduous trees drop their leaves in:
 - a. swimming pools
 - b. rain gutters
5. Try to keep the front yard open ?????
6. Avoid planting trees that may drop fruit on sidewalks and driveways
7. Avoid planting mostly trees that are variegated or not green
8. Most trees are full sun plants
9. Avoid planting near the driveway where they will become too large and block the view of on coming traffic
10. Some trees roots aggressively seek water, so avoid planting near sewer laterals
11. Trees planted on the southwest side of a patio or deck will provide good shade from

the heat of the day.

Designing with trees

If I am going to plant 12 trees in a yard I will follow some of these rules when placing the trees in the design.

1. Use only 2-3 types of trees with an accent tree or two
2. Group trees if possible
3. Repeat trees that are in view of each other to add repetition to the design

Trees purchase size

1. Leafy trees are sold by caliper, which is the diameter of the tree at a specific point. Such as 2-2 1/2" caliper
2. Conifers are sold by height
3. Trees that are 2-2 1/2" caliper are about as large of a tree that one person can handle
4. Companies with tree spades can move very large trees of 4-6" caliper or more
5. Large conifers are much harder to plant than leafy trees