



The Importance of Trees

We are all responsible for taking care of the environment.

MTEMC cares very much about preserving and caring for the natural world, and there's no better place to start than with trees. Planting new trees and taking good care of existing trees can make a huge impact on the quality of our environment.

We often take them for granted because we see them every day, but trees make important contributions to the planet's well-being. Consider all the valuable resources that come from trees:

Shade

Trees provide cool spaces where we can retreat from the heat of the summer. In fact, having shade trees around your house can even help lower your air conditioning bill.

Shelter

Trees provide wild animals with protection from predators and harsh weather conditions.

Oxygen

A vital component of the air we breathe, oxygen is released by trees and plants through a process called photosynthesis, which converts carbon dioxide, water and light energy into oxygen and food.

Food

Many of your favorite fruits, nuts and spices—not to mention maple syrup—come from trees.

Wood Products

Look around you—how many items do you see made of wood? The list of uses for wood is almost endless: chairs, baseball bats, tables, pencils, doors, picture frames, musical instruments and so much more.

Paper Products

Fibers from hardwood trees (like oak and maple) and softwood trees (like pine and spruce) are combined with water to make paper for writing, printing and packaging.

Synthetic Fibers

Did you know that cloth can be made from trees? The natural fibers of wood can be broken down and re-formed into artificial materials like rayon, which is used to make clothing and other items, and cellophane, which is used for packaging material.

Rubber

Rubber comes from trees that produce a milky sap called latex. The latex is combined with other materials to form rubber.

These are just a few of the ways that trees improve our health, our leisure time and our economy. Please join MTEMC in our efforts to keep this renewable resource alive for future generations: plant a tree today!



How to Plant a Bare-Root Seedling

Protect our environment one tree at a time.

Before planting your tree, it's important to choose the right location. If you don't have a yard, ask your apartment complex, your school or a local park for permission to plant on their property. You can also plant your new tree in a large pot temporarily, but it will need to be replanted once it outgrows the container.

Planting Instructions

1. Keep the roots of the seedling moist and cool until the tree can be planted.
2. Select a sunny or partly sunny location away from power lines. The mature tree should be no closer than 20 feet to a power line.
3. Dig a hole as deep as the seedling's roots and twice as wide.
4. Remove the seedling from the plastic bag and discard the paper towels.
5. Gently hold the seedling upright as you fill the hole with soil. Pack the soil around the roots firmly but not too tightly with your hands. Don't tamp soil down with your feet.
6. Water the tree thoroughly and slowly.
7. Place a ring of mulch around the tree about two inches deep and three feet in diameter. Make sure the mulch does not touch the trunk of the tree, or else it may cause insect and/or disease problems.
8. Be sure to water your tree once a week or more often during dry spells.
9. Be proud of yourself for a successful planting and enjoy your tree for many years to come!

Every tree planted has a positive effect on the natural environment, so if we all work together, we can make a significant difference. That's MTEMC's goal—a better environment through teamwork. For more information about planting trees, visit <http://www.arboday.org/trees/membershiptrees/plant.cfm>.

