

# Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program

The City of Victoria recognizes food-bearing trees as valuable assets for promoting food security, food education, and the growth of the City's urban forest. The Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program enables residents, in partnership with a community organization, to plant and maintain small groupings up to a maximum of five fruit and/or nut trees in a park or greenspace in their neighbourhood.



## Becoming a Food Tree Steward

Food trees require ongoing maintenance, including watering, pruning, mulching and harvesting. Residents who wish to plant food-bearing trees in a neighbourhood greenspace or park must partner with a community organization to submit an application and sign a maintenance agreement as a 'Food Tree Steward' with the City of Victoria to ensure the tree(s) will be kept healthy and well-cared for the duration of the life of the tree(s).

### Food Tree Stewards are required to:

- Select and purchase trees that meet the "Specifications for Selecting and Planting Fruit Trees" available in Appendix A, and as approved on the tree location plan. To ensure tree health, trees must be inspected and approved by a City of Victoria arborist prior to purchase if in a local nursery. If being ordered and delivered, the tree must be inspected by City staff on site at delivery.
- Plant the trees in accordance with the tree location plan approved by the City of Victoria and the "Specifications for Selecting and Planting Fruit Trees" in Appendix A.
- Commit to daily maintenance of the site during the fruit bearing months, and at least weekly visits during the off months.
- Water, prune, weed, mulch and maintain the tree(s). This includes locating an accessible water source from which to water the trees.
- Ensure all fruit is picked during the harvest and ensure all windfall is gathered. No fallen fruit can be left on the site.
- Maintain the trees to the set standard, at no cost to the City of Victoria, including water, disposal fees from all debris including from pruning, and organizing supplies (including mulch).

### Your Maintenance Agreement application must include:

- Contact information for the operating community organization, and Food Tree Steward(s).
- A description of the project.
- A tree location plan, including proposed tree species, cultivar and rootstock (where applicable), water location, site access and any required tree support structures.
- Proof that immediate neighbours have been consulted and are supportive. Prior to approving an application under this program, the City may also erect signage on the site to solicit feedback from other park users.

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Parks, Recreation and Facilities

E [parks@victoria.ca](mailto:parks@victoria.ca)

T 250.361.0600

## Design considerations

- Species should be selected for climate change resistance, ease of care and reasonable cost. A list of recommended species is attached as Appendix A.
- Trees should be spaced to accommodate lawn mowing between trees (at least 4 metres between tree wells).
- Once mature, trees should be pruned to accommodate pedestrian circulation and mowing under the trees.
- Trees should not be located where fallen fruit may be hazardous, including near playgrounds and streets.
- Trees should be located where fruit can be easily and safely harvested.
- Any physical structures, including deer fencing and tree supports, will require approval from the City of Victoria Parks Division prior to installation.

## Restrictions

- No additional plantings or garden plots are permitted as part of this pilot program. Fruit trees with additional plantings or garden plots are considered a type of 'Community Garden', and must adhere to the City of Victoria Community Gardens Policy.
- Trees may not be located over underground utilities, under power lines, or in locations that will make surrounding maintenance difficult.
- No ornamentation of trees is permitted.
- Pesticide use is not permitted. If a pest infestation or disease threatens tree health, the City of Victoria Parks Division will work with the steward(s) to establish a treatment plan.
- Produce grown on the site cannot be sold for private profit.
- Produce grown on the site must be available for the public to harvest.
- The City of Victoria reserves the right to remove trees for any reason, by providing 30 days written notice to the operating community organization.
- Trees must be maintained to the standards outlined in this document. Issues and complaints about trees received by the City of Victoria will be forwarded to the operating community organization. The City reserves the right to remove the trees if issues and complaints remain unresolved by the operating community organization after 30 days.

## Evaluation of the pilot program

The purpose of the Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program is to introduce and test a model for increasing the number of food bearing trees in City of Victoria parks and green spaces. As part of the City's adaptive management approach, this program will be evaluated annually and at the end of five years, and practices and policies revised accordingly. Evaluation will include, but is not limited to:

- Complaint and/or comments
- Tree health
- Input from community organizations
- Volunteer hours and individuals

## Tree planting

Tree planting is a joint initiative between City Staff and Food Tree Stewards. Food Tree Stewards are required to inform the City of the desired planting date. City staff will assist with tree planting during regular business hours.

Trees must be planted from between mid-October and the end of November.

# Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program

## APPENDIX A: Specifications for Selecting and Planting Fruit Trees

### Tree Selection

- Tree must be healthy and vigorous.
- One dominant central leader or single straight trunk.
- 4–5 cm caliper, measured at 15cm above the ground.
- Well branched balanced heads.
- No crossing or rubbing of branches, including bark or other flaws which could affect the tree's long-term health or structure.
- Balled & burlapped trees shall be hand or machine dug, placed in wire baskets or wrapped with burlap and secured with ropes in such a way as to not damage the root, crown or trunk.
- Potted trees shall be free of girdling and/or circling roots from previous pottings.
- Trees should have adequate fibrous and absorptive roots developed by the proper cultivation, transplanting and root pruning to enable the full recovery of the tree.
- No more than 5cm from the top of the prepared rootball to the root flair.
- Free of all known diseases, insect infestations, defects, sunscald, injuries, abrasions and decay.
- No perennial weeds must be contained in the soil root ball or growing media.
- All plant material must meet or exceed the 'Canadian Standards for Nursery Stock' set out by the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association and the BC Landscape and Nursery Association.

### Tree Preparation and Planting

\*Refer to Figure 1: Tree Planting Diagram

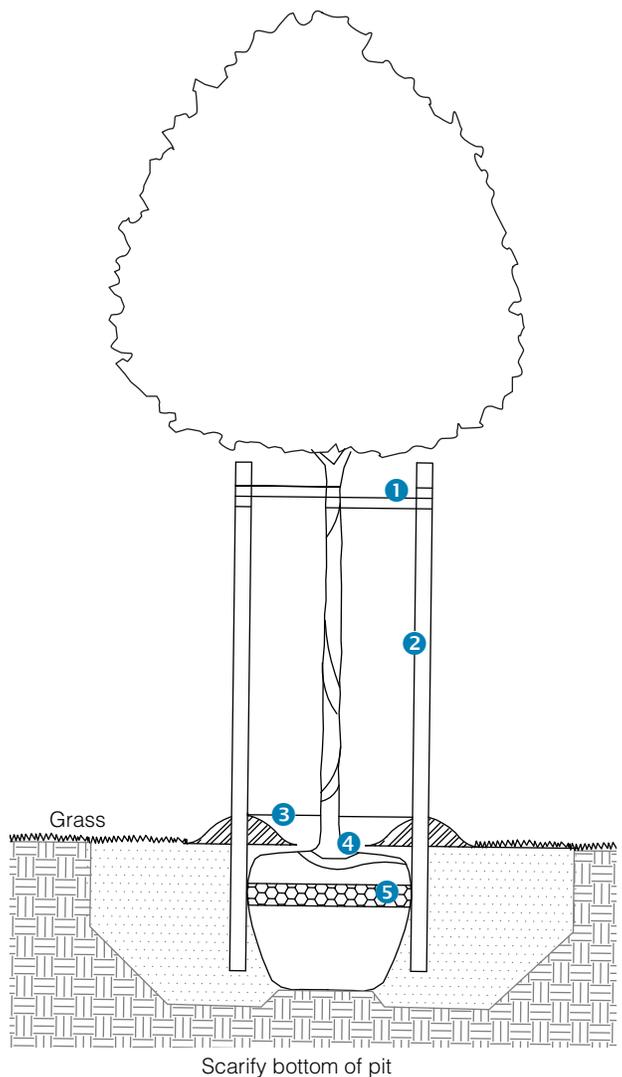
- Container Grown: remove completely from container. Check for and loosen and spread or cut circling roots.
- Burlap & Rope: remove top 1/3 of burlap covering.
- Wire & Burlap: remove top 1/3 of wire, rope and burlap covering without damaging root ball. Remove all twine.
- Scarify bottom of planting pit.
- Soil to be placed and tamped in 100mm layers.
- Do not prune leader; only dead or damaged branches.

### Tree Supports (if required)

\*Refer to Figure 1: Tree Planting Diagram

- 75mm diameter x 2.44m long pressure treated stakes. Stake at edge of root ball on prevailing wind side of tree.
- Secure tree to stakes using #10 gauge (2.9mm diameter) galvanized wire through 25mm diameter rubber hose or Arbortie hose webbing. Set wire/hose 225mm below top of stake.
- Optional: Attach agricultural wire fencing to stakes for protection from deer.

Figure One: Tree Planting Diagram



- 1 #10 galv. wire in rubber or Arbortie hose webbing
- 2 75mm diameter stake
- 3 1m diameter saucer with 150mm depth bark mulch over root ball
- 4 Top of root ball to be set 25mm below finished grade
- 5 Remove burlap, wire basket, rope from top 1/3 of root ball.

# Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program

## APPENDIX B: Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program (2016)

### Recommended Fruit and Nut Trees

#### Apple

Akane  
Ambrosia – Dwarf  
Braeburn  
Bramley's Seedling  
Chehalis  
Chehalis – Dwarf  
Cox Orange  
Early Pink Lady  
Elstar  
Elstar – Dwarf  
Florina  
Fuji  
Fuji – Dwarf  
Gala  
Gala – Dwarf  
Golden Gala (Aurora)  
Golden Gala (Aurora) – Dwarf  
Golden Russet  
Golden Sentinel – Columnar  
Gravenstein  
Gravenstein – Dwarf  
Gravenstein Espalier 2 Tier  
Honeycrisp  
Honeycrisp – Dwarf  
Honeycrisp – Esp. 2 Tier  
Jonafree  
Jonagold – Dwarf  
King  
Liberty  
Liberty Dwarf  
McIntosh  
Melrose  
Mutsu  
Pristine  
Red Delicious  
Redfree  
Red Gravenstein  
Red Northern Spy  
Rosy Glow  
Royal Gala  
Scarlet Sentinel – Columnar  
Spartan  
Spartan – Dwarf  
Spartan – Espalier 2 tier

#### Apple

Sunrise  
Sunrise – Dwarf  
Yellow Transparent

#### Apricot

Harglow  
Tilton  
Wenatchee (Moorpark)

#### Cherry

Angela  
Bing  
Compact Stella  
Early Burlat  
Lapins  
Rainier  
Stella  
Angela – Gisela dwarf  
Bing – Gisela dwarf  
Glacier – Gisela dwarf  
Lapins – Gisela dwarf  
Rainier – Gisela dwarf  
Royal Ann – Gisela dwarf  
Stella – Gisela dwarf  
Surefire – Gisela dwarf

#### Cherry – H

Juliet – Dwarf  
Romeo – Dwarf

#### Cherry – S

Schatten Morello  
CrabDolgo  
CrabKerr  
CrabWhitney

#### Fig

Black Spanish  
Desert King  
Negronne  
Peter's Honey

#### Medlar

Breda Giant

#### Mulberry

Illinois Everbearing – Black  
Persian Black – Tree  
White – Tree

#### Nectarine

Hardy Red

#### Nut

Almond – Hall's Hardy  
Almond – Texas Mission  
Butternut – Juglans cinerea  
Chestnut – Chinese  
Chestnut – Spanish  
Filbert  
Hazelnut – Jefferson  
Hazelnut – Theta (summer)  
Hazelnut – Yamhill (summer)  
Heartnut – Juglans sieboldiana  
Pecan – Desirable  
Walnut Cook's Giant Sweet  
Walnut – Eastern Black  
Walnut – Manregion  
Walnut – Persian, English, etc.

#### Olive

Arbequina  
Leccino

#### Peach

Frost  
Galaxy  
Redhaven  
Reliance  
Veteran

#### Pear

Anjou  
Anjou – Dwarf  
Bartlett  
Bartlett – Dwarf  
Bosc  
Bosc – Dwarf  
Clapp's Favourite

#### Pear

Conference  
Conference – Dwarf  
Flemish Beauty  
Red Bartlett  
Rescue  
Sierra – Dwarf

#### Pear – Asian

Chojuro  
Hosui  
Shinko  
Shinseiki

#### Persimmon

Chocolate  
Giant Fuyu  
Izu (summer)

#### Plum

Beauty (Japanese)  
Blue Damson (European)  
Bradshaw (European)  
Gold Plum (Japanese)  
Green Gage (European)  
Italian (European)  
Mirabelle (European)  
Peach Plum (European)  
Redheart (Japanese)  
Santa Rosa (Japanese)  
Satsuma (Japanese)  
Seneca (European)  
Shiro (Japanese)  
Stanley (European)  
Yakima (European)  
Yellow Egg (European)

#### Quince

Le Borgeot