

Plant Trees for Energy Conservation

The right tree in the right place can provide shade and cool air in the summer and wind protection in the winter, reducing energy costs while adding beauty and privacy to a landscape. Consider strategically planting trees to lower utility costs.

If your yard allows, plant three large trees, one each on the east, west and north sides of your house. These locations can help to shade your house in the summer and block wind in the winter. It is best not to plant trees on the south side of your home. In the winter, when sun is desired to aid heating, trees planted on the south side – even those that lose their leaves - can cast too much shade. Better to choose a southwest/west orientation.

Before you dig:

- Identify locations with plenty of sunlight and access to rainwater.
- Call Missouri One Call at 1-800-DIG-RITE (344-7483) or 811. Have them mark your property for utilities before you dig.
- Avoid planting trees over or near the house lateral or City sewer lines in your yard. Roots can damage sewers causing basement backups.
- Supplement soil if needed to make sure it provides adequate nutrients.

For more information on planting trees, including how to select trees suited to your location and how to care for them, visit the Missouri Botanical Garden's website www.mobot.org (navigation: Gardens and Gardening/Your Garden). For a little inspiration, plan a trip to the Kemper Center for Home Gardening at the Missouri Botanical Garden and get advice from the experts.

The City of Warson Woods is fortunate to have Gordon Gosh as our City Arborist. Gordon generously provides his services and advice to residents regarding tree planting and maintenance. Gordon can be contacted at ggosh@warsonwoods.com