

Tips for tree-planting success

If you are planning some fall landscaping that includes trees, OPPD forester Mike Norris recommends the tree types listed below.

These species and more can be seen at the OPPD Arboretum, 108th and Blondo streets in Omaha. You can also learn how to plant trees to avoid power lines.

RED OAK

This medium to large shade tree with a spreading canopy is known for its hardiness and adaptability, as well as its brilliant fall foliage.

Size: 60-70 feet at maturity, with a spread of around 45 feet.

Growth rate: This is a relatively fast-growing tree, gaining more than 24 inches per year.

Location: Full sun is ideal.

GINGKO

This tree is known for its uniquely shaped leaves that turn a bright yellow in fall. It also has high tolerance for urban soils and pollution.

Size: 25-50 feet at maturity, spread of up to 35 feet.

Growth rate: Medium, adding 13-24 inches per year.

Location: Full sun and partial shade are best, with a minimum of four hours of direct sunlight.



CONCOLOR (WHITE) FIR

This hardy evergreen thrives in an urban setting, has good foliage color, good needle retention and a pleasing shape and aroma.

Size: 30-50 feet at maturity, with a spread of about 20 feet.

Growth rate: Slow to medium, with gains of less than 12 inches to 24 inches per year.

Location: Full sun and partial shade, with a minimum of four hours of direct sunlight daily.

But planting a new tree goes beyond digging a hole and shoveling dirt around the trunk. The process depends on how the roots appear when you buy the tree.

Trees can come with bare roots, in containers, or with the root system balled and wrapped in burlap. Below right, we share the proper techniques for all three.

BARE ROOT

1. Untangle the roots, soak in water for 3-6 hours.
2. Dig a hole wider than the tree so the roots can grow outward.
3. Plant at the same depth as it was planted at the nursery.
4. Shovel in remaining soil, packing firmly.

CONTAINER

1. Dig a hole 3-4 times wider than container, with sloped sides.
2. If tree is root-bound, cut an "X" on bottom of the root ball and four vertical slices around the sides.
3. Place in hole, with root collar just below top.
4. Fill, firmly pack soil until just below root collar.

BALLED, BURLAPPED

1. Dig saucer-shaped hole 2-3 times wider, deeper than root ball.
2. Set tree in the hole so root ball is slightly above ground level.
3. Cut and peel away the wire basket, rope and twine from the ball. Regular burlap can remain under the ball.
4. Firmly pack original soil around the tree until soil is just below the root collar.

WATERING

In all cases, create a basin around the hole and give the tree a good watering.

More information: Visit arborday.org/trees for more details on planting trees.

IT'S THE LAW: In Nebraska, call 811 or visit ne1call.com before digging. In Iowa, call 811.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 19 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Oct. 21, 5 p.m., (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details) Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on oppd.com/BoardMeeting.

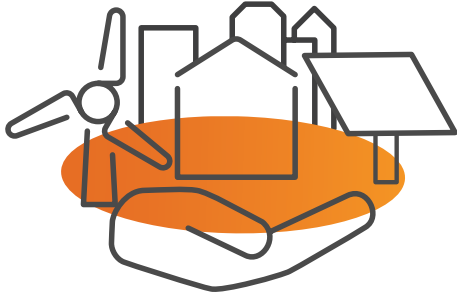
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Power with Purpose



OPPD pursuing additional utility-grade solar generation

Through its Power with Purpose (PwP) project, OPPD plans to add 600 megawatts of utility-scale solar and up to 600 MW of modern natural gas backup to its generation portfolio.

The district has acquired 81 MW of solar capacity to date, and remains committed to adding another 519 MW of utility-scale solar.

In the long run, the solar capacity is needed to maintain reliability and resiliency of the system in growing communities, while positioning OPPD to meet its net-zero carbon goal in 2050.

Peaking plants

To back up this solar power, OPPD is preparing to build two natural gas generation peaking plants: Standing Bear Lake Station, near 120th Street and Military Road in Omaha; and Turtle Creek Station, near 168th Street and Fairview Road in Papillion.

As peaking plants, these facilities will run only as needed, per market conditions, estimated at less than 15% of the time.

The PwP team is finalizing natural gas supply

infrastructure agreements with Metropolitan Utilities District for Standing Bear Lake Station and Northern Natural Gas for Turtle Creek Station.

In addition, sourcing for a vendor for the Engineer, Procure, and Construct (EPC) parts of the generation and substation facilities at both locations is in progress.

Ames Construction Inc. has started preliminary grading at the stations. This will prepare the sites for major construction in early 2022. Construction is to be completed in 2023.

Throughout the planning process, OPPD remains committed to reaching out to and working with key stakeholders, including local government officials and those living near natural gas plant sites.

You can find more information, offer comments and ask questions about PwP and other projects on our community engagement platform, [OPPDCommunityConnect.com](https://oppdcommunityconnect.com).

You can visit the site by scanning the QR code at right with your smartphone.



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Two easy steps...

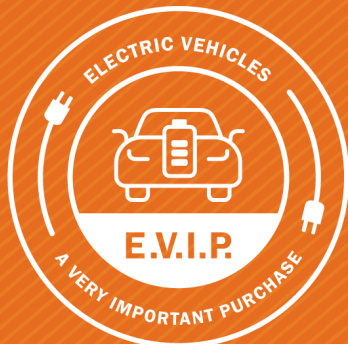
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