

Boston Tree Alliance

Best Management Practices Fact Sheet

The Boston Tree Alliance's Tree Subcommittee is committed to providing guidance and recommendations for successful tree plantings.

Best management practices (BMPs) are mechanisms to ensure successful tree planting and maintenance. Trees have physiological needs, structural limitations, chemical and physical tolerances, and differing genetic potential.. There are many actions people can take at, and after, time-of-planting that can “make or break” the tree's chances at long-term survival and growth. Following BMPs will help ensure better tree-related outcomes and increase tree equity on private land in Boston.

Programmatic Best Management Practices

- Join and work collaboratively with the Boston Tree Alliance
- Apply for grants to plant and maintain new trees in your neighborhood(s)
- Landowners can [request new trees](#) to be matched with planting projects
- Ensure access to suitable properties with landowner agreements

Tree Planting Best Management Practices - [Tree Planting 101](#)

- Select the best trees for the project types and sites - “right tree, right place” and seek advice from tree professionals, if needed
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- Call DigSafe (it's the law - call 811) and mark final planting locations with care
- Source, handle, and transport trees with an eye on the stock type, weather, etc.
- Plant at proper grade, with proper materials, and with the tree's health in mind
- Mulch, amend, and water-in trees with the tree's health in mind
- Make sure to document the details of each planting and return them to the Alliance
- Leave each landowner feeling confident about next steps and maintenance

Tree Maintenance Best Management Practices - [Caring for New Trees](#)

- Have trees inspected annually at minimum
- Water with the weather - not too much, not too little - for 2 years minimum
- Only prune if necessary for structure and health
- Check for pests, diseases, soil management needs, and damage at inspections
- Make sure to document tree condition details and return them to the Alliance
- Remove and replace any trees that die within the 2-year maintenance period