

Olivette *Life*

...in the center of it all

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Autumn Is Perfect Time To Plant Trees



If you have been considering adding a tree to your landscape, fall is a good time. Cooler temperatures and increased rainfall provide good growing conditions. The roots of the tree will continue to grow throughout the winter and be more established and ready to withstand the stressful heat and drought of St. Louis summers. Most nurseries have a good selection of trees available this time of the year.

Shade trees provide framing, shade and background while flowering trees add interest to your landscape. When selecting trees, consider the mature size, form, color of foliage in summer and fall, and overall appearance of the tree. For flowering trees, also consider time and color of the blooms, interest of the fruit and seedpods. Consider the growing

conditions, drainage of the selected site, type of soil and the amount of sun available. Improving the soil with organic matter will help trees flourish and be healthy. When planting, dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball and have the soil no higher than the root flare.

The Missouri Botanical Garden Plants of Merit include trees that grow well in this area and can be seen at their web site www.gardeninghelp.org or look for Missouri native trees at your favorite nursery. Phone Horticultural Answer Service at 314-577-5143 with specific questions.

Olivette in Bloom is a non-profit community volunteer organization with a mission to promote the natural beauty and harmony in Olivette by designing, planting, and maintaining garden sites. OIB needs you in our gardens. Check our web site www.olivetteinbloom.org for workday dates and other volunteer possibilities.