

What, How, & Where to Plant Trees in Pugwash

(Peter's Planting Pointers)



Peter Duinker, PhD, P.Ag.

Professor

School for Resource and Environmental Studies

Dalhousie University

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Observation

- The Pugwash tree population is pretty good but . . . it could use improvement.
- The best way to improve the tree population is to increase it in smart ways.



Assumption

- **Pugwash villagers want, and are in a position, to take action to improve the tree population in the village.**



What we should talk about tonight



- **Kinds of trees to plant**
- **Where to get trees to plant**
- **Sizes of trees to plant**
- **When to plant trees**
- **Where to plant new trees**
- **How to plant a tree**
- **How to care for a young tree**

Kinds of trees to plant

- **Think about:**

- **Native to NS? Native to Acadian Forest Region?**
- **How long the tree will live**
- **How strong the wood is**
- **How large the tree will grow at maturity**
- **Your desire for leaves-off in winter**
- **Your tolerance for leaves on the lawn (and in gutters)**
- **What form the tree will take at maturity**
- **How windfirm the species is**
- **Whether the species is allelopathic**
- **Whether you want edible fruit**
- **Whether you find the species attractive**
- **Whether the species is resistant to various stresses**
- **Etc.**

Where to get trees to plant

- **Garden stores (buyer beware!!)**
- **Nurseries (usually knowledgeable)**
- **From friends' woodlands (getter beware)**
- **Start them yourself from seed**

Sizes of trees to plant

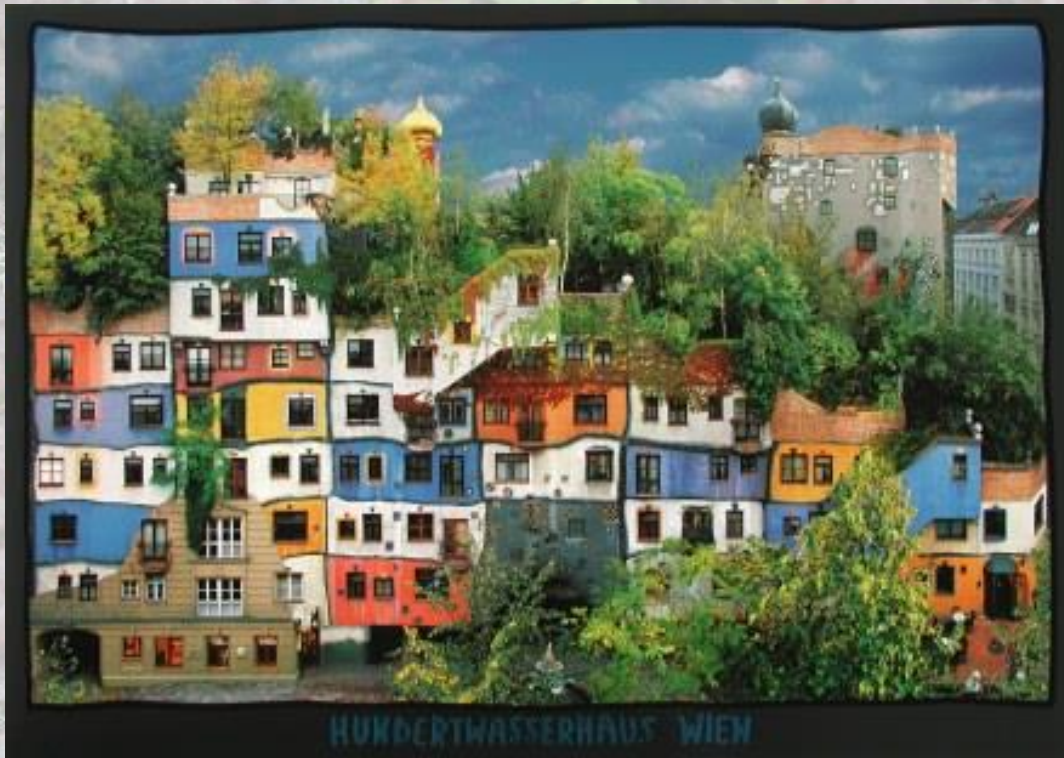
- **Seedlings/whips**
 - 15-80 cm tall
 - Cheap; easy to plant; better rooting and vigour (?)
- **Potted, bagged, or bareroot saplings**
 - 80-300 cm tall
- **Caliper trees (60 mm root-collar diameter)**
 - 200-500 cm tall
 - Most expensive to buy and plant



When to plant trees

- **Two windows of opportunity**
 - **Spring (April-June) – before the growing season**
 - **Late autumn (November) – well after the growing season**

Where to plant trees



Where to plant new trees

- **In the ground is best!!**
- **In good soil!**
- **Anywhere a fully grown tree provides great benefit with minimum grief (high on the values, low on the disamenities)**
- **Close to streets gives greatest benefits and potentially greatest disamenities**
- **Consider infrastructure down, sideways, up**

Next to streets is ideal!



Where to plant new trees

- **Trees in relation to each other:**
 - Spacing – don't be afraid to put them close together
 - Spacing – don't be afraid to have diverse spacings
 - Arrangement – don't be afraid to go random (instead of straight lines)



How to plant a tree

- **Dig a hole, put it in (roots down), backfill**
- **Make the hole bigger in diameter than the root ball**
- **Not too deep, not too shallow**
- **Prune the roots before backfilling**
- **Backfill with soil from the hole**
- **Avoid fertility “enhancers” such as bonemeal**
- **Tamp well**
- **Berm the soil in a ring**
- **Use mulch generously on top of soil**
- **Water the new tree generously**

How to plant a tree

- **There are hundreds of tree-planting guides in print and online (our handout has a few)**

How to care for a young tree

- **Water it when it is dry**
- **Protect it from injury, especially at the base**



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- If you must stake and tether it:
 - Do so loosely
 - Remove the tether in a year or two



How to care for a young tree

- **Water it when it is dry**
- **Protect it from injury, especially at the base**
- **If you must stake and tether it:**
 - **Do so loosely**
 - **Remove the tether in a year or two**
- **Avoid pruning until later (keep the crown as large as possible when the tree is young)**



More encouragements . . .

- **Coordinate and work together with neighbours**
- **Be patient – celebrate the slowness of tree development**
- **Form a learning community centred on trees**
- **Hug trees frequently**

