



# 10,000 Trees Initiative

Update for the Environmental  
Commission

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

# Overview



**Community Tree Plantings**



**FreeTree Giveaways**

# Overview



**Targeted tree planting events  
in neighborhoods or at  
community spaces**

**Staff-led, volunteer planted**

**Typically 2-3" caliper, ball-and-  
burlap or container trees**

**Preliminary site visits**

**Community Tree Plantings**

**Tree distribution events open  
to all County residents**

**Self-planted**

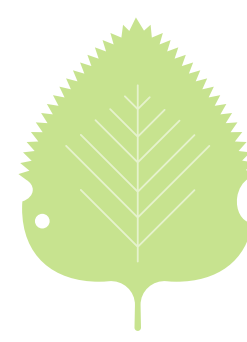
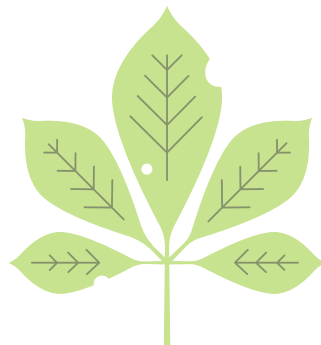
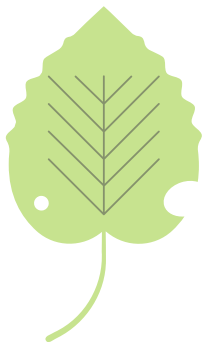
**Typically 2-3' tall seedlings**

**FreeTree Giveaways**

# TREE-ducation



- **Site visits for CTPs: Check planting locations; discuss species options based on resident's wants and location; discuss maintenance**
- **All recipients (through FTG or CTP) receive a tree planting card, tree info card, and links to maintenance resources (e.g., [USFS Tree Owners Manual](#))**



# TREE-ducation



## Tree Planting and Care Tips

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

### Planting

- The best seasons to plant a tree are spring and fall.
- Call 811 before digging to have utility lines located and marked. Avoid planting under power lines.
- Dig a saucer-shaped hole as deep as the tree's root ball and three times as wide.
- Break up the sides of the hole so the roots can grow through.
- Set the root ball in the center of the hole, root flare level with the top of the hole or slightly above.
- Cut away any burlap/wrapping. Remove non-biodegradable materials like plastic pots or ties.
- Gently fill the hole with soil and use water to settle it and remove air pockets.
- Add a 3-4" layer of mulch, leaving a 6" bare circle around the trunk to prevent trunk decay.

### Care and maintenance

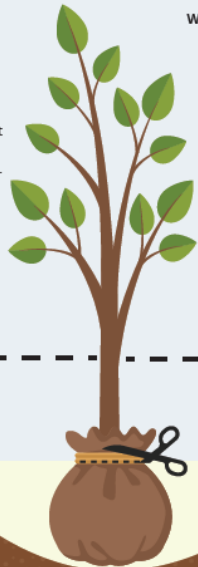
#### Pruning

- Prune away any dead or broken branches with clean, sharp pruning shears.
- Do not prune healthy branch tips or the tallest, center part of the tree.
- Clip any small twigs, called suckers, growing from the base of the tree.

Find more resources and map your trees!  
[michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/forestry/mi-trees](http://michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/forestry/mi-trees)

#### Staking (optional)

- Drive two stakes into the ground on opposite sides of the tree, 6"-8" outside the root ball.
- Loosely tie the tree to the stakes with a wide strap below the first branch. Do not use wire.
- Remove staking materials after one year.
- Don't stake unless the tree is in a windy area, has a dense crown, or has a trunk larger than 3 inches in diameter.



#### Watering

- Water frequently and deeply in the first year, especially in hot, dry weather.
- Water the whole area under the canopy of the tree, not just at the base of the trunk.
- Fertilizer is not recommended at planting or for the first three years.



## 10,000 TREES INITIATIVE TREE INFO CARD

### Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)

#### Get to know your tree:

The pawpaw is a Michigan native species with large, diamond-shaped leaves with pointed tips and straight, parallel veins. Leaves may be more than 12 inches long. Fall leaf color is typically yellow or light brown. Flowers are large, dark purple, and bell-shaped. Fruits are somewhat mango-like in appearance: large, lumpy, oblong, and yellow or dark brown in color. Bark is smooth and grey or brown in color. This species may occur as either a small tree or a large shrub.

#### Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter pawpaw provides approximately \$9.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels by 11 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger pawpaws, visit [www.treebenefits.com](http://www.treebenefits.com).



#### Fun facts about your tree:

This tree is also known as the custard apple, as the fruit is edible and has a custard-like texture – the flavor is often described as a cross between banana and mango!

The pawpaw is the northernmost member of a family of plants that are typically tropical, and has the largest edible fruit of any species native to North America!



#### Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day), though pawpaws will also do well in shade. Pawpaws may grow to heights of 20-40 feet, with a spread of around 10-20 feet. This species does well in most soil types, but prefers slightly acidic soils.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit [www.arborday.org/trees/planting](http://www.arborday.org/trees/planting). And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

#### Care for your tree:

This species is moderately tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.



[www.a2gov.org/10ktrees](http://www.a2gov.org/10ktrees)

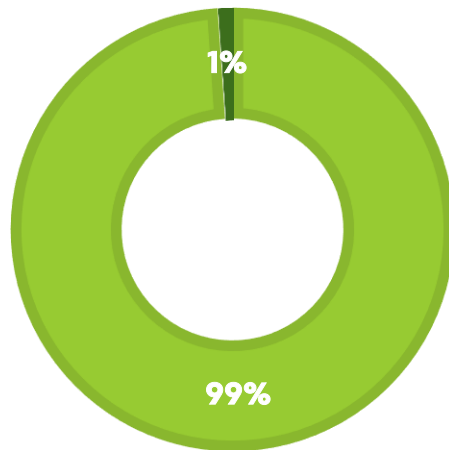
[www.a2gov.org/10ktrees](http://www.a2gov.org/10ktrees)

# By the Numbers

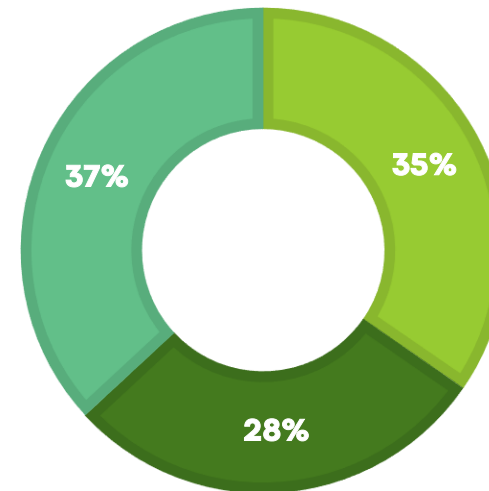


Trees distributed so far: 5,052

- FreeTree Giveaways
- Community Tree Plantings



- 2021
- 2022
- 2023



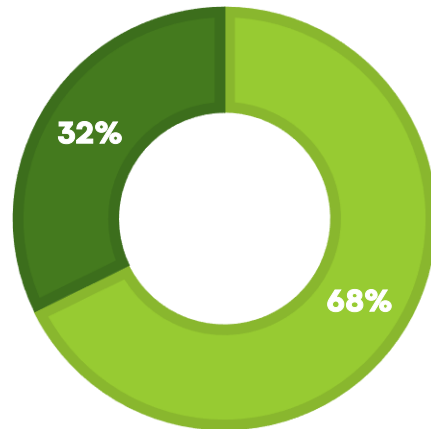
# By the Numbers



## Number of species: 31

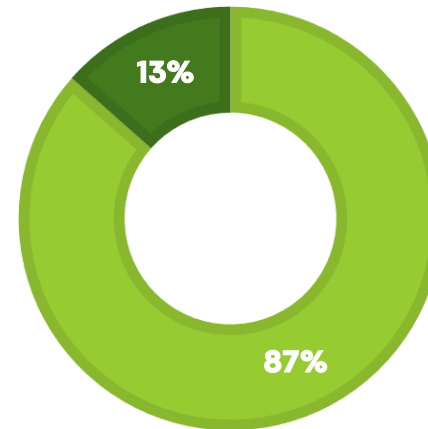
### NUMBER OF SPECIES

■ Native ■ Non-Native



### NUMBER OF TREES

■ Native ■ Non-Native



# Native Species



- **Eastern White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*)
- **Red Pine** (*Pinus resinosa*)
- **White Spruce** (*Picea glauca*)
- **Arborvitae** (*Thuja occidentalis*)
- **E. Redcedar** (*Juniperus virginiana*)
- **American Linden** (*Tilia americana*)
- **Eastern White Oak** (*Quercus alba*)
- **Pin Oak** (*Quercus palustris*)
- **Silver Maple** (*Acer saccharinum*)
- **Red Maple** (*Acer rubrum*)
- **Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*)
- **Tuliptree** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
- **Am. Sycamore** (*Platanus occidentalis*)
- **Bitternut Hickory** (*Carya cordiformis*)
- **Paper Birch** (*Betula papyrifera*)
- **Blackgum** (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
- **Am. Hornbeam** (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
- **Flowering Dogwood** (*Cornus florida*)
- **Eastern Redbud** (*Cercis canadensis*)
- **Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier* spp.)
- **Hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*)



# Non-Native Species



- **Norway Spruce** (*Picea abies*)
- **Baldcypress** (*Taxodium distichum*)
- **Yellowwood** (*Cladrastis kentukea*)
- **Magnolia** (*Magnolia* spp.)
- **Kousa Dogwood** (*Cornus kousa*)
- **Flowering Cherry** (*Prunus* spp.)
- **Sweet Cherry** (*Prunus* spp.)
- **Peach** (*Prunus persica*)
- **Pear** (*Pyrus* spp.)
- **Apple** (*Malus* spp.)

# Tree Sources



**Lodi Farms** (Ann Arbor, MI)  
**Nature & Nurture** (Dexter, MI)  
**Wildtype** (Mason, MI)

**Community Tree Plantings**



**Alpha Nursery** (Holland, MI)  
**Engel's Nursery** (Fennville, MI)  
**Additional Nurseries**

**FreeTree Giveaways**

# Community Response



- **FreeTree Giveaway registrations typically sell out within one day**
- **Survey results from Fall 2021 FTG:**
  - **Average overall satisfaction rating: 8.7/10**
  - **Average satisfaction rating for trees: 8.7/10**
  - **Average self-reported preparedness level to plant/maintain trees: 9/10**
  - **Desire for smaller species to fit yard sizes, and for shade trees**



# Looking Forward



- **The Spring 2024 FreeTree Giveaway will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> and will distribute approx. 4,500 trees consisting of 9 Michigan-native species**
- **The City of Ann Arbor Forestry Department, Office of Sustainability and Innovations, and Natural Area Preservation, with support from the Washtenaw County Conservation District, have been awarded a \$1M grant from the USDA Forest Service. This grant will support an update to the City's urban tree canopy analysis, tree planting efforts on private property through the 10,000 Trees Initiative, strategic planning around the City's natural areas management, and a feasibility study for the creation of a City/County-owned tree nursery.**

# Looking Forward



- **A 'Survival Study' is currently being planned, through which AmeriCorps members will visit trees distributed or planted through the 10,000 Trees Initiative and record updated data on their condition.**
- **Educational programs are in development. These will be open to the public and are intended to drive increased engagement around our urban trees, build public understanding of the importance of a healthy urban tree canopy, and potentially create a cohort of 'tree ambassadors' in our community.**



# THANK YOU

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