



Everybody's favorite, canopy trees, are another logical Best Management Practices component that provides excellent water management. In addition to assisting in runoff control, they provide shade and beauty to every environment.

What kind of trees can I plant at my Residence?

To receive the most benefits, large canopy trees should be planted on residential properties. To maximize the tree canopy's potential for capturing precipitation and providing shade, it is best to select canopy trees with a natural growth habit that is spreading versus compact. Evergreen trees maintain their leaves year round and are good for maintaining privacy and providing the most shade for hot areas like Long Beach. Deciduous canopy trees lose most of their leaves in the fall or winter, however they still provide substantial shade in summer on your property. There are many large canopy tree species appropriate to thrive in the Long Beach coastal climate zone. In selecting your canopy trees, it is important to note that there is an array of evergreen and deciduous California native trees that would provide all the benefits of a canopy tree along with helping restore the native flora of the region.

Sources of information in how to select the appropriate trees for your area and how to care for them are available online at:

<http://www.treepeople.org/choose/right/tree>

<http://selecttree.calpoly.edu/>

<http://www.arborday.org/trees/righttreeandplace/>

Impervious Area (sq. ft.)	Number of Large Canopy Trees Planted*
500 - 1,000	2
1,001 - 1,500	4
1,501 - 2,000	6

How Many Trees Do I Need?

The number of trees required to capture runoff from a given impervious area is shown in the following table.

For more information, contact
Long Beach Development Services at
(562) 570.5237 or www.lbds.info



Design Criteria and Considerations

When installing a canopy tree, the following criteria should be adhered to unless otherwise permitted by the City of Long Beach. The owner should check all boxes that will be complied with.

- Canopy trees must be planted at least 10 feet from the house foundation and at least 5 feet from fences, patios, driveways and sidewalks. To reduce stormwater runoff most effectively, canopy trees should be planted within 10 feet of an impervious area on the residential property, such as a driveway or walkway.
- If planting a canopy tree within close proximity (20 feet) to overhead utility lines, restrictions may apply. Questions related the potential hazards of canopy tree placement near overhead utility lines can be answered by contacting Southern California Edison (800) 655-4555 or visiting their website at: <http://www.sce.com/Safety/treesandpower/default.htm>.
- Prior to planting, property owners must check for underground utilities before planting the canopy tree in the right-of-way. Call DigAlert (800) 227-2600 or www.digalert.org at least two days before you begin digging a hole for the tree, and they will mark where the underground utilities are in the right of way.

Operations and Maintenance

Once trees have been planted, the following criteria should be adhered to. The owner should check all boxes that will be complied with.

- For the first month after planting your tree, water deeply (15 gallons) twice a week. For the second and third months after planting, water deeply once a week. The next few months you should only water every two weeks and once the tree is at least six months old, you can water once a month for the rest of its first year.

Owner Certification

"As the owner of the project property, I hereby certify that the above information is true, accurate, and complete, to the best of my knowledge."

Owner Signature: _____ Date: _____

- After the tree is a year old watering requirement are minimal. Expect to water every six weeks as necessary for the next few years of the tree's growth.
- Once trees are mature, maintenance will also include pulling weeds around the base of the tree and pruning (removing dead or diseased branches), which helps the tree structure and increases its longevity.

Tree Planting Guidelines

Dig a hole at least twice as wide as the root ball (all the roots inside the pot) and almost as deep as the height of the root ball. Making sure the walls of the hole you dug have loose enough soil so tree roots can penetrate. If they are slick; roughen them up with a shovel.

- Remove the tree from the container and check that its roots are not circling the trunk. If so, uncurl the circling roots gently so they go outward from the trunk and then place tree gently in the hole you dug. Make sure the tree is standing upright when placed in hole.
- Fill in hole with soil (pack down soil to help stabilize the tree), but allow the top of the root ball to be exposed above soil at least 1 inch to avoid rotting. Build a water basin around the tree to concentrate water going to the root ball. Do this by building a 6 inch high soil berm (raised barrier) around the perimeter.
- Water the tree thoroughly with 15 gallons of water immediately after planting. The best technique is "deep watering", allowing the hose to trickle 15 gallons of water around the tree over a period of 2 to 4 hours, which does not disturb the soil and ensures the roots get the amount of moisture they require.
- After watering, cover the whole planting area with a 4 inch layer of mulch, leaving a 2 inch area around the base of the tree trunk free of mulch. Mulch is plant matter that includes: shredded leaves, straw or composted wood chips. Adding mulch keeps soil temperate, reduces surface evaporation of water and slows weeds from growing around the base of the tree.

* The recommend tree planting size is 15 gallons, due to the projected health and larger growth of the tree compared to a 24 or 36 inch boxed tree in 5 years time.