

The time to plant depends, in part, on the site and the kind of tree you select. A slope facing south can be used earlier in the spring than one facing north. Shaded areas are slower to warm up, but this shade can reduce dehydration of roots and leaves during and after planting. And planting can start sooner where soils are loamy and well-drained, not heavy and damp.

Digging and planting in the fall--instead of spring--carry certain advantages. Rainfall is less and soil is often in better working condition. The warm soil and cool air stimulate root growth. However, the new tree then faces the long winter with a limited root system for support. Plant tender trees and most broad-leaved evergreens in the spring.