

Tree Planting in New Mexico



**Jade Tencza- Planting
Event Coordinator**

What we do

Tree New Mexico is dedicated to helping communities' plant and care for trees in urban areas- large and small- throughout The Land of Enchantment. Increasing the urban tree canopy in New Mexico involves two crucial parts: planting trees and educating people to care for trees.



ABQ NeighborWoods

ABQ NeighborWoods increases the tree canopy by 100 planted trees and 100 giveaway trees, one neighborhood at a time. We use this opportunity to promote tree awareness and build community.

Statewide Plantings

Statewide plantings take the main concepts of ABQ NeighborWoods and adapts it to other urban centers around the state.

Tree Stewards Program

The Tree Stewards Program is an expansive educational opportunity designed for people who love trees, love their community, and want to support the healthy growth of both.

Trees Planted
Since 2017

10,000+



What is urban forestry?

Urban forestry is the care and management of trees and forests within urban areas, with the intention of improving the environment.

Urban forest settings include:

- Street trees
- Parks
- Community gardens
- Nature preserves
- Landscaped boulevards/medians
- The bosque

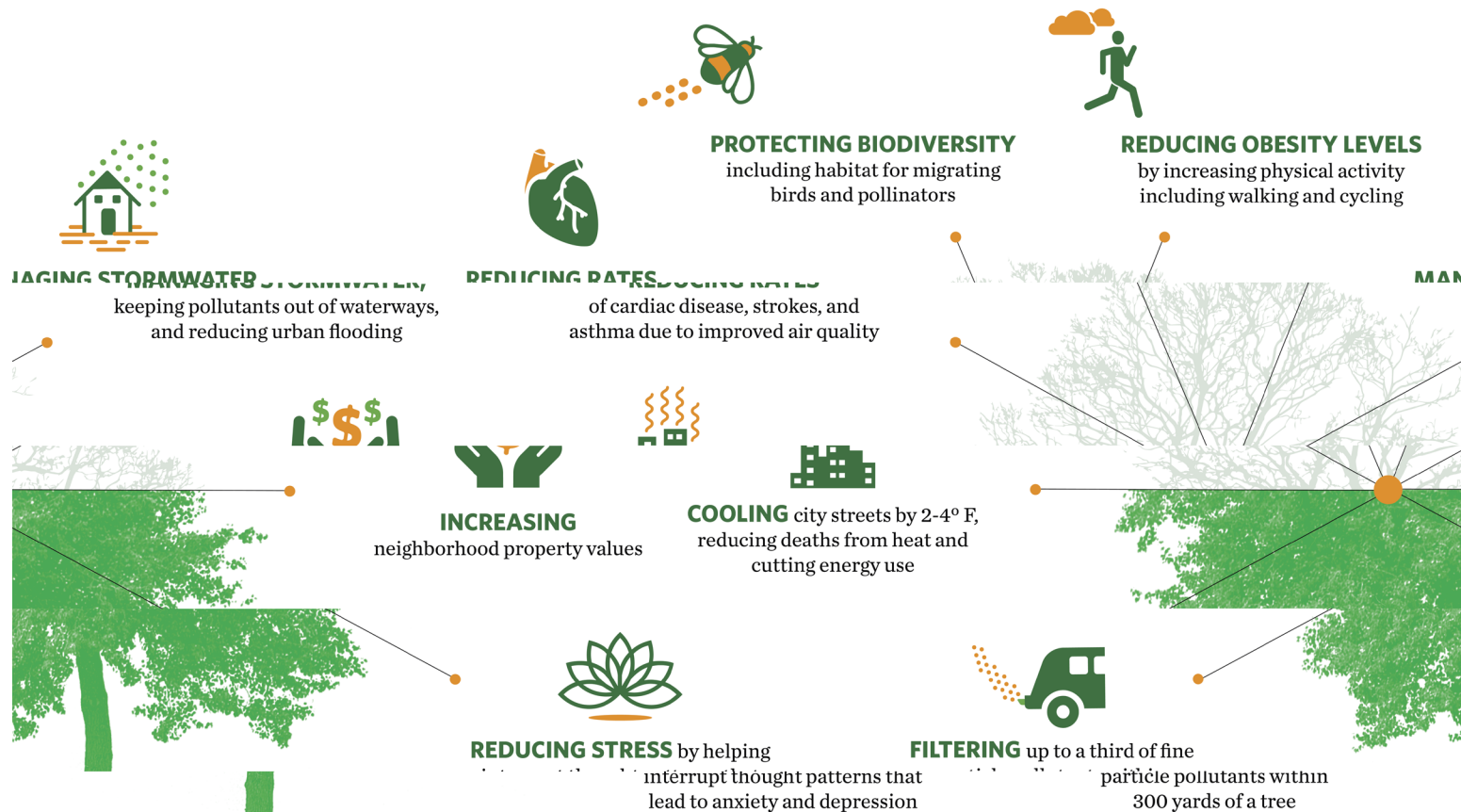


Why are urban trees important?

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Benefits of Urban Trees

Research has linked the presence of urban trees to...



What is an urban heat island?

Urban heat islands form when a built environment absorbs and reflects heat. Parts of a city that have fewer green spaces and more built features tend to be significantly warmer than the surrounding area.

Relative temperature profile

Heat from sunlight is reflected from and absorbed by buildings and roads.

Heat from industrial processes and vehicles warms the air.

Moisture in soil and vegetation evaporates and cools the air.

Fewer trees and less exposed soil mean less shade and evaporation.

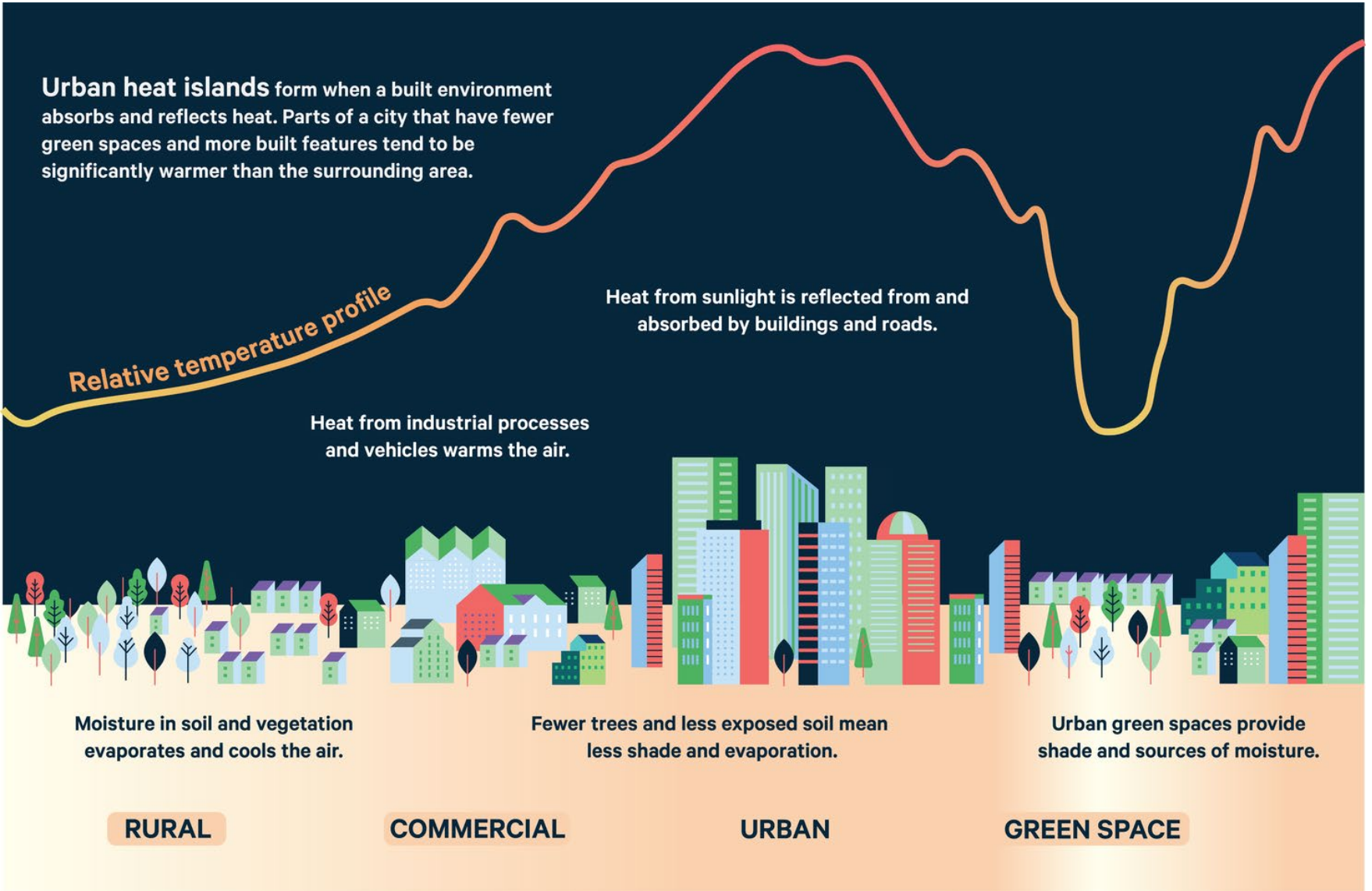
Urban green spaces provide shade and sources of moisture.

RURAL

COMMERCIAL

URBAN

GREEN SPACE



Climate Ready Trees

Trees adapted to face present and future climate challenges such as heat, drought, extreme weather, and pests without becoming invasive.

[Albuquerque Climate Ready Trees- guidelines and list](#)



CLIMATE-READY TREES

Planting a Tree? Select from our list of trees that thrive in our high desert environment!

LARGE TREES

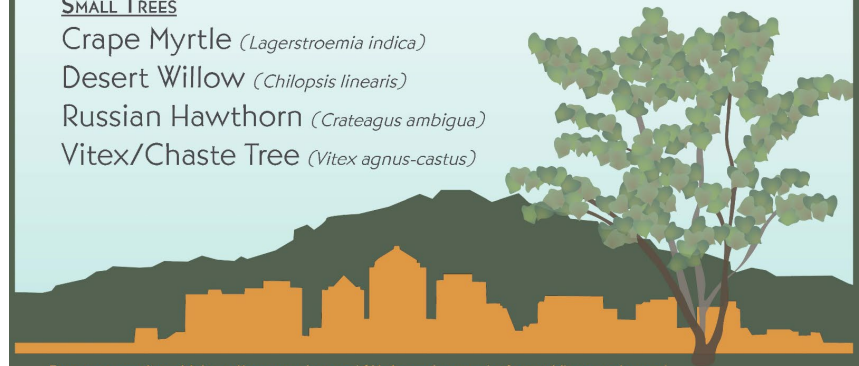
- Afghan Pine (*Pinus eldarica*)
- Altas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*)
- Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*)
- Chinquapin Oak (*Quercus muhlenbergii*)
- Common Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
- Hybrid Elms (*Ulmus spp.*)

MEDIUM TREES

- Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*)
- Escarpment Live Oak (*Quercus fusiformis*)
- Japanese Pagoda Tree (*Styphnolobium japonicum*)
- Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*)

SMALL TREES

- Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)
- Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)
- Russian Hawthorn (*Crateagus ambigua*)
- Vitex/Chaste Tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*)



For more tree options, visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/urban-and-community-forestry/climate-ready-trees/>



Plant the **right tree in the right place** for maximum survivability.



Tree species considerations:

How big will it get at maturity?

How much water does it need?

How will it do in the current and future climate?

Location considerations:

How much sunlight will it receive?

How much soil space is available to receive water and nutrients?

Proximity to other trees?

Structures, sidewalks, powerlines, and underground utilities?

How to plant a tree

Set yourself up for success with the right tools.

You'll need:

- Shovel
- Rake
- Hand saw
- Pruners
- Scissors
- Knife
- Hose with on/off nozzle



Remember safety first!

- ✓ Always be careful when working with sharp tools.
- ✓ Lift heavy trees with 2 people.
- ✓ Wear closed toed shoes, gloves, sunscreen and stay hydrated.



Prepare The Hole

- Dig the hole about the same depth as the pot and twice as large as the root ball.
 - This helps encourage lateral root growth and provides softer soil for the roots to grow into.
- Cut back any landscape cloth about 5 feet away from the hole.
- Add water to the bottom and side of hole and let absorb.



Graphic by: June Jewell

TIP!

Place a tarp down over any rocky surface to avoid losing too much soil and makes for easy clean up.

Prepare Tree

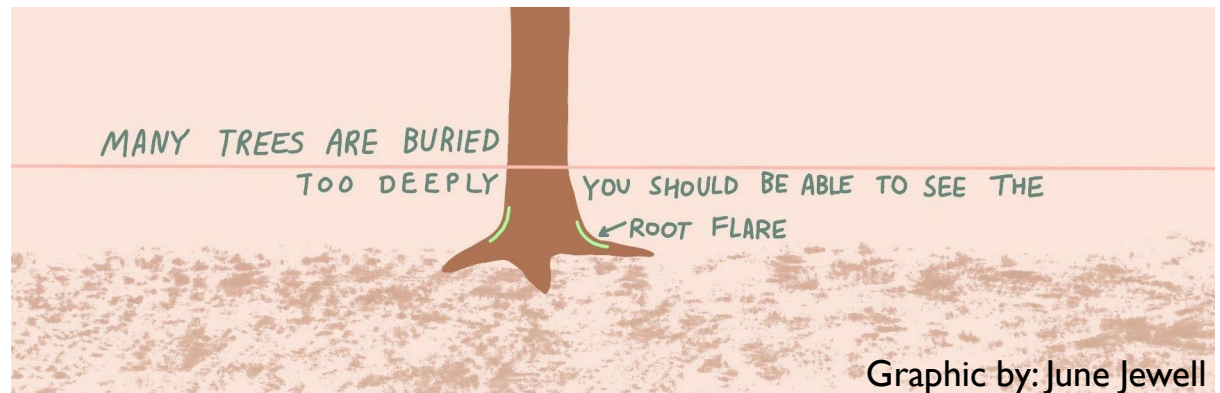


- Remove all tags/tape that is on the tree
- Remove any type of stake
- Prune off any dead, damaged, crossing/rubbing branches
- Remove the tree from its container
- Remove soil from the top of the tree until you find the root flare
- Loosen the root ball allowing the roots to spread out
- Cut **all** circling roots right before they begin to turn
 - Trees can loose 30% of their roots and will still survive.

Set The Tree



- Find the root flare
- Make sure hole is not too deep!
 - If you need to fill in some soil tamp it down to avoid too much settling.
- Place the tree upright with roots spread out with the root flare ½-1 inches above the surface.
- Backfill with soil and water as you move the tree back in forth, or in circular motions to release any air bubbles.
- Continue to layer soil and water until the soil level reaches just below the topmost roots.



Graphic by: June Jewell

Mulch, Mulch, Mulch!

TIP!

Check with local tree care companies- many give away free mulch!

- Build a berm around 3 feet from the trunk to hold in water.
- Add 4-6 inches of mulch to the base of the tree.
- **SOAK** the mulch each time you water.
- Mulch is a must in New Mexico to keep the roots cool, soil moist, and breaks down over time.
- Mulch can help lower your water usage over time.



Staking

Only stake if absolutely necessary. If the tree is unstable or has a poor root ball.

Materials:

- 3 stakes per tree.
- 4 strips of a flexible material that will allow the tree to move and grow over time- we use women's nylons.
- Hammer or mallet



Directions:

- Place three stakes 120 degrees apart about 15-18 inches away from the trunk, ensuring they will clear the root ball and be in solid ground.
- Tie one piece of nylon around the trunk of the tree in a loop.
- Tie the remaining 3 nylons to each stake leaving a long piece out.
- Tie the leftover fabric from each stake to the loop around the tree creating a triangle around the trunk.
- Remove your stakes after **one year**.

Improper staking is one of our top causes for tree death.

To prune or not to prune



Following the 4 D's saves trees from over-pruning

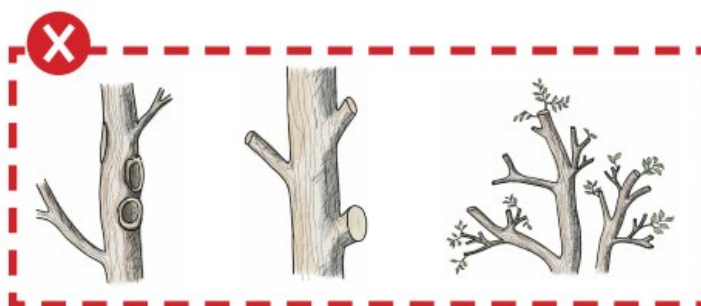
Dead- small branches that “snap” instead of bend. Larger branches if you scrape away a small part of bark you will see a hard and brown layer instead of soft and green.

Diseased- wilted leaves, branches without bark. Oozing, discoloration. Prune at least 6 inches below the area into healthy wood and clean your pruners with rubbing alcohol.

Damaged- broken branches open the tree to pests and disease. Make a clean cut back to a bud on young stem, to another branch, or to the trunk.

Deranged- branches that cross and rub against each other. Keep one and prune the other. Branches that grow inward towards the tree.

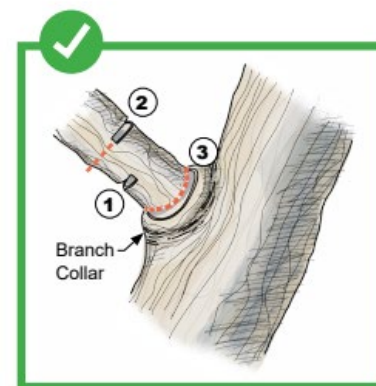
Improper and Proper Pruning Techniques



Flush Cuts create open wounds that often lead to disease & decay

Stub Cuts prevent tree from properly healing from a prune, creating pathways for decay

Topping or Tipping a tree causes it to create weakly attached shoots that grow quickly and are prone to breaking

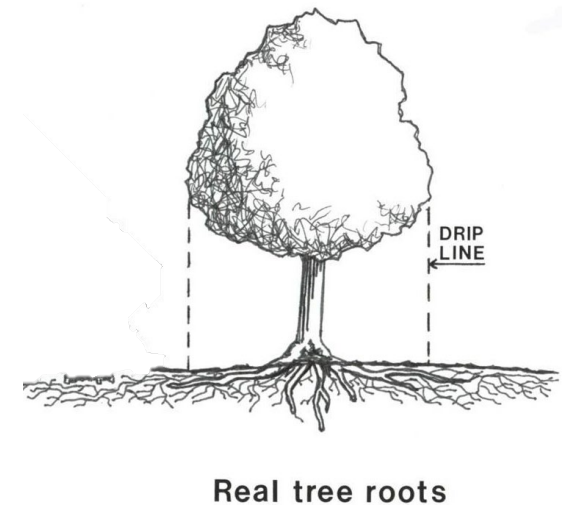
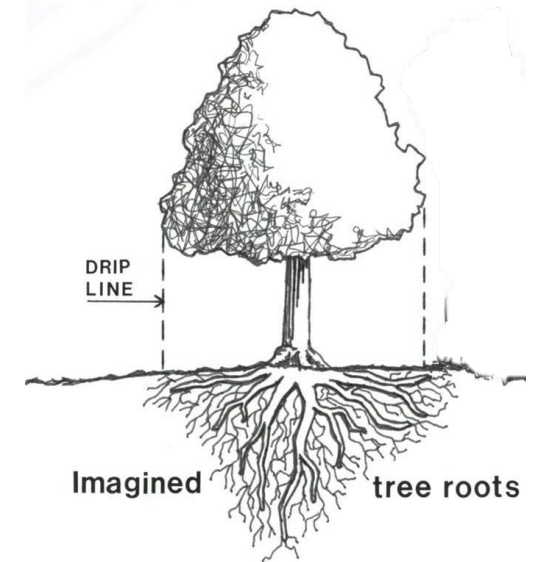


Three-Cut Method
(1) Undercut to prevent ripping
(2) Second cut to remove limb
(3) Cut stub but leave the branch collar



New Tree Watering Tips

- Each tree has unique water requirements depending on species, soil type and location.
- Check soil moisture to a depth of 2 feet before each watering session.
- Water slowly and with low pressure (drip), to allow absorption into soil and reduce water runoff, for roughly 1 hour.
- Place the hose at the edge of the canopy. Adjust the hose each time you water to ensure even distribution.
- Your tree needs 3 years to establish strong roots.
- Consistent watering in the first few years is crucial for tree growth/success!





New Tree Watering Tips

Season/Months	When to water
Winter: Dec - Feb	1-2 times a month
Spring: March - April	2 times a week
Summer: May - Sept	3 times a week
Fall: Oct - November	2 times a week

*This is intended as a general guideline. Not all trees will follow this schedule.

Thank you!



Tree concerns, problems, or questions?

Call us at **(505) 265-4554**, email us at
help@treenm.org, or visit our website at
treenm.org