



**CORNELL
COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION OF
ONEIDA COUNTY**

HOME GROWN FACTS

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Weeping Willow *Salix alba v. tristis* (say-licks al-bah)

What about it?

The weeping willow is a deciduous tree that grows about 60 feet tall. It has long drooping branches and an overall rounded shape. It flowers with yellow blossoms in mid-April and the leaves will turn yellow in the fall. The twigs are also yellow. Some people are certain that these twigs become a more intense yellow as spring approaches. Others disagree.

There are several varieties of the weeping willow: *Salix blanda*, the Wisconsin Weeping Willow, *Salix eleantissima*, the Thurlow Weeping Willow, and *Salix babylonica*, the Babylon Weeping Willow. There are also Black Willows and Pussy Willows.



What is it used for?

If you have a big lawn that is moist year-round, the willow will make a great decorative tree. They are often planted in parks and naturalistic areas near water, around ponds and lakes, or stream banks. They make wonderful shade trees.

Where does it grow? How do we grow it?

Willows love water. They should be planted 50 feet apart.

What are its primary problems?

Willows have weak wood and can be troublesome in very windy or snow prone areas. They also can cause litter problems with falling leaves and branches. They are prone to cankers and galls. For these reason, they are best planted away from buildings. Their roots can clog drainpipes in a matter of months if planted around the house.

Helping You Put Knowledge to Work

Before planting trees, look up, look down and look right and left. Planting under power lines, close to buildings, sidewalks or septic systems will only mean costly repairs in the future.

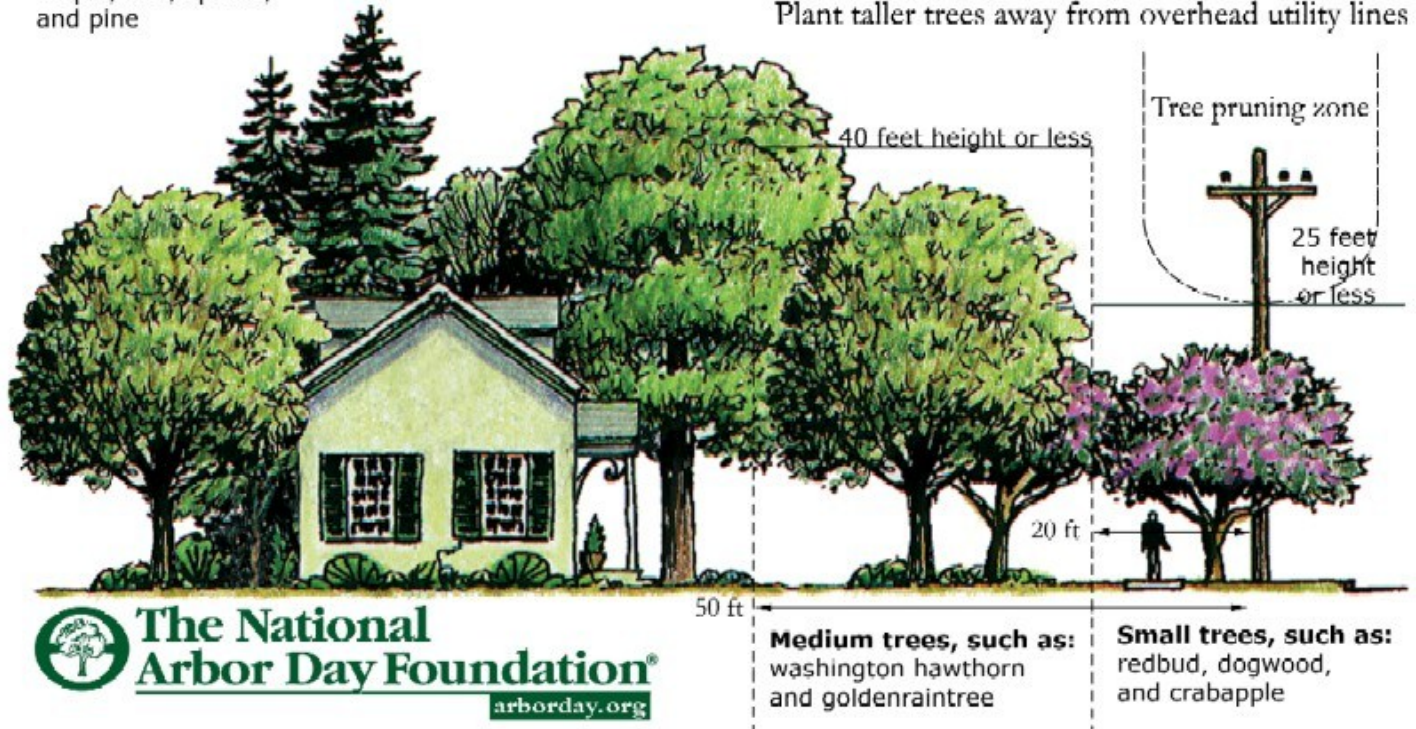
If your tree grows 45 feet tall, make sure there are no obstructions. If it grows 20 feet wide make sure it has 20 feet of space to spread out. Think of the root system as growing the same size as the canopy. Plant the tree far enough away so that the roots won't damage sidewalks, foundations or septic systems.



Tall trees, such as:
maple, oak, spruce,
and pine

Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines



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Updated 2011 lsk12

Source: www.hort.cornell.edu/4hplants/ornamentals.html