



## GARDENING TIPS FROM BLUE WILLOW AND LANDSCAPE ONTARIO

### MAY

#### *Leafy, lovely trees: nature's air cleaners*

Trees have been called the lungs of the earth as they naturally replenish the oxygen we use every day. However, we need trees for more than the air we breathe. Trees improve the value of our lives in a number of different ways.



#### *Improve health*

Trees improve moods and emotions, and they create feelings of relaxation and well-being.

Trees provide privacy and a sense of solitude and security.

Foliage helps to settle out, trap and hold particulate pollutants (dust, ash, pollen and smoke) that can damage human lungs.

Because of their potential for long life, trees frequently are planted as living memorials. We often become personally attached to trees that we or those we love have planted.

In cities, trees can act as buffers, absorbing a significant amount of urban noise.

#### *Add natural character to our cities and towns*

Provide us with colours, flowers, and beautiful shapes, forms and textures.

Trees add interest by changing with the seasons.

Trees and associated plants create habitat and food for birds and animals.

#### *Reduce pollution*

Trees absorb carbon dioxide and other dangerous gases and, in turn, replenish the atmosphere with oxygen.

An acre of trees produces enough breathing oxygen 18 people every day.

An acre of trees absorbs enough carbon monoxide, over a year's time, to equal the amount you produce when you drive your car 26,000 miles.



A single mature tree can absorb 48 lbs. of carbon dioxide per year, and release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support two human beings.

Over 50 years, a tree generates \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provides \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, recycles \$37,500 worth of water, and controls \$31,250 worth of soil erosion.

City streets lined with trees show a 60% reduction in street-level particulate readings.

One 12-inch sugar maple along a roadway removes 60 mg of cadmium, 140 mg of chromium, 820 mg of nickel and 5200 mg of lead from the environment each growing season.

### **Conserve water and prevent soil erosion**

Trees reduce surface runoff from storm water, and prevent soil erosion and sedimentation of streams.

Trees increase ground water recharge to help make up for losses in paved areas.

Trees prevent wind from eroding soil.

### **Save energy**

Deciduous trees provide shade and block heat from the sun during hotter months. By dropping their leaves in the fall they admit sunlight in the winter.

Shade from trees over hard surfaces such as driveways, patios and sidewalks minimizes landscape heat load.

Shade trees can reduce air conditioning costs up to 30 percent.

Evergreens planted on the north sides of buildings can intercept and slow winter winds.

### **Increase economic stability**

Trees enhance community economic stability by attracting businesses and tourists.

Healthy trees can add up to 15 per cent to residential property values.

This information is provided by Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association, one of the most vibrant associations of its kind in North America, comprised of over 2,000 members, nine sector groups and nine local chapters. Visit [www.landscapontario.com](http://www.landscapontario.com) to find a professional member near you.

Blue Willow Garden & Landscape Design Centre  
23834 HWY #48 Baldwin, ON L0E 1A0  
Tel: 905-722-5849 1-800-598-0041  
Fax: 905-722-3157 Email: [bwillow@ils.net](mailto:bwillow@ils.net)

