

SEASONAL DIGGING GUIDE

The following are recommended seasons to dig shrubs and trees from the ground in our region.

The best time to dig any tree or shrub is in the spring before bud break but after the soil becomes workable. In general, it is not a good idea to dig trees or shrubs with new or soft growth. Plants should not be dug during extreme conditions such as heat or drought. Digging needle evergreens in the late fall can be very risky because of potential winter desiccation.

This is only a guide. Your own experiences and site conditions should also be considered.

#1 DIG IN SPRING ONLY

TREES – SPRING ONLY

<i>Acer rubrum*</i>	Red Maple
<i>Acer saccharinum*</i>	Silver Maple
* Can dig all other maples except <i>A. palmatum</i> in spring and fall	
<i>Aesculus.</i>	Chestnut (Buckeye)
<i>Betula .</i>	Birch
<i>Carpinus.</i>	Hornbeam
<i>Cercis .</i>	Redbud
<i>Cladrastis</i>	Yellow Wood
<i>Crataegus</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Diospyros</i>	Persimmon
<i>Eucommia</i>	Hardy Rubber Tree
<i>Gymnocladus</i>	Kentucky Coffee Tree
<i>Juglans</i>	Walnut
<i>Liriodendron</i>	Tulip Tree
<i>Magnolia</i>	Magnolia
<i>Nyssa</i>	Tupelo
<i>Ostrya</i>	Hop Hornbeam
<i>Parrotia</i>	Parrotia
<i>Populus</i>	Poplar
<i>Prunus . (trees)</i>	Cherry & Plum etc.
<i>Pyrus</i>	Pear
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak
<i>Salix</i>	Willow
<i>Tsuga .</i>	Hemlock*

*Hemlock can be dug in early fall, prior to October 15th. However, if it is to be planted in an exposed location, digging/transplanting should be done in the spring.

SHRUBS – SPRING ONLY

<i>Caragana</i>	Pea Shrub
<i>Clerodendrum</i>	Glory Bower
<i>Hibiscus</i>	Rose of Sharon
<i>Hypericum</i>	St. Johnswort
<i>Itea</i>	Sweetspire
<i>Lespedeza</i>	Bush Clover
<i>Physocarpus</i>	Ninebark

<i>Prunus</i> (shrubs)	Cherry etc.
<i>Pyracantha</i>	Firethorn
<i>Rhus</i>	Sumac
<i>Ribes</i>	Currant
<i>Vitex</i>	Chasteberry

#2 DIG IN SPRING & FALL ONLY

TREES – SPRING & FALL ONLY

<i>Abies concolor</i>	White Fir (Concolor Fir)
<i>Acer</i> spp.	Maple (Except <i>A. palmatum</i> , <i>A. rubrum</i> , <i>A. saccharinum</i>)
<i>Amelanchier</i>	Serviceberry
<i>Aralia</i>	Aralia
<i>Cercidiphyllum</i>	Katsura Tree
<i>Chionanthus</i>	Fringe Tree
<i>Cornus</i>	Dogwood
<i>Fagus</i>	Beech
<i>Fraxinus</i>	Ash
<i>Ginkgo</i>	Ginkgo
<i>Gleditsia</i> .	Locust
<i>Halesia</i>	Silverbell
<i>Larix</i>	Larch
<i>Maackia</i>	Maackia
<i>Malus</i>	Crabapple & Apple
<i>Metasequoia</i>	Dawn Redwood
<i>Pinus mugo</i>	Mugo Pine
<i>Platanus</i>	Sycamore (Plane Tree)
<i>Pseudolarix</i>	Golden Larch
<i>Styphnolobium</i> (<i>Sophora</i>)	Scholar Tree (Pagoda Tree)
<i>Sorbus</i>	Ash
<i>Stewartia</i>	Stewartia
<i>Styrax</i>	Snowbell
<i>Tilia</i>	Linden
<i>Ulmus</i>	Elm
<i>Zelkova</i>	Zelkova

SHRUBS – SPRING & FALL ONLY

<i>Amelanchier</i>	Shadbush
<i>Buddleia</i>	Butterfly Bush
<i>Caryopteris</i>	Bluebeard (Blue Mist Shrub)
<i>Chaenomeles</i>	Flowering Quince
<i>Cornus</i>	Shrub Dogwood
<i>Corylus</i>	Filbert
<i>Cotinus</i>	Smokebush
<i>Cotoneaster</i>	Cotoneaster
<i>Cytisus</i>	Broom
<i>Daphne</i>	Daphne
<i>Deutzia</i>	Deutzia
<i>Franklinia</i>	Franklinia

<i>Hamamelis</i>	Witch Hazel
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	English Holly
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly
<i>Ilex pedunculosa</i>	Long Stalk Holly
<i>Ilex x meserveae</i>	Meserve Hybrid Hollies
<i>Ilex serrata</i>	Finetooth Holly
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry
<i>Ligustrum</i>	Privet
<i>Lindera</i>	Spicebush
<i>Lonicera</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Paxistima</i>	Cliff Green
<i>Potentilla</i>	Cinquefoil
<i>Rosa</i>	Shrub Roses
<i>Salix</i>	Shrub Willow
<i>Sambucus</i>	Elderberry
<i>Symphoricarpos</i>	Snowberry
<i>Viburnum</i>	Viburnum*

*See Category #4 for Viburnum exceptions

#3 DIG SPRING, SUMMER*, & FALL

CAUTION! *Do not dig in extreme heat or drought.

TREES – 3 SEASONS (see Caution above)

<i>Cedrus</i>	Cedar
<i>Chamaecyparis</i>	Cypress
<i>Cryptomeria</i>	Japanese Cypress
<i>Juniperus</i>	Juniper
<i>Sciadopitys</i>	Japanese Umbrella Pine
<i>Taxus</i>	Yew
<i>Thuja</i>	Arborvitae

SHRUBS – 3 SEASONS (see Caution above)

<i>Buxus</i>	Boxwood
<i>Calluna</i>	Heather
<i>Enkianthus</i>	Enkianthus
<i>Erica</i>	Heath
<i>Ilex crenata</i>	Japanese Holly*
*May have winter root damage. Do not dig until it starts new growth.	
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry
<i>Leucothoe</i>	Fetterbush
<i>Pieris</i>	Pieris (Andromeda)
<i>Rhododendron</i>	Azalea & Rhododendron*
*New growth on Rhododendron is fragile.	
<i>Syringa</i>	Lilac
<i>Vaccinium</i>	Blueberry

#4 DIG SPRING+, SUMMER*, & FALL

CAUTION!

+ Do not dig when plants have new or soft growth.

*** Do not dig in extreme heat or drought.**

TREES – 3 SEASONS (see Cautions above)

<i>Abies</i>	Fir (except <i>A. concolor</i>)
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	Japanese Maple
<i>Oxydendrum</i>	Sourwood
<i>Picea</i>	Spruce
<i>Pinus</i>	Pine (except <i>P. mugo</i>)
<i>Syringa</i>	Tree Lilac

SHRUBS – 3 SEASONS (see Cautions above)

<i>Aronia</i>	Chokeberry
<i>Clethra</i>	Summersweet
<i>Euonymus</i>	Wintercreeper
<i>Forsythia</i>	Forsythia
<i>Hydrangea</i>	Hydrangea
<i>Kalmia</i>	Mountain Laurel
<i>Kerria</i>	Kerria
<i>Kolkwitzia</i>	Beautybush
<i>Myrica</i>	Bayberry
<i>Philadelphus</i>	Mock Orange
<i>Physocarpus</i>	Ninebark
<i>Spiraea</i>	Spirea
<i>Viburnum dilatatum</i>	Linden Viburnum
<i>Viburnum plicatum</i>	Japanese Snowball Viburnum
<i>Viburnum plicatum</i> var. <i>tomentosum</i>	Doublefile Viburnum
<i>Viburnum sieboldii</i>	Siebold Viburnum
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	American Cranberrybush
<i>Viburnum wrightii</i>	Wright Viburnum
<i>Weigela</i>	Weigela
<i>Xanthorrhiza</i>	Yellowroot

This guide was adapted from information provided by Weston Nurseries, Hopkinton, Mass.