

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

(1 yr 12-24") Sycamore grows to 120 feet tall and is commonly found on moist lowland soils. Sycamore is used for watershed protection since it can be planted on wet sites. Native to Maryland, a magnificent and fast-growing tree with silvery bark and foliage that provides ample shade. Unlike sweetgum, the seed balls are soft, not prickly.

Where to plant: Full Sun | Well-Drained Soil | Allow ample space for the tree's mature size (at least 40–50 ft from buildings, driveways, and sidewalks to avoid potential root damage.

How to plant:

Plant in early spring or in fall when tree is dormant.

1. Soak the roots in a bucket for 1–2 hours prior to planting to rehydrate them.
2. Dig a hole twice as wide and as just deep as the root system.
3. Place seedling in the hole, ensuring the roots are spread out and not bunched up. Its root flare or collar (where the trunk meets the roots) should be at ground level.
4. Backfill the hole with the original soil, gently firming it around the roots. Ensure there are no air pockets around the roots as you backfill. Water thoroughly.
8. Mulching with organic mulch is beneficial for retaining moisture and suppressing weeds, so long as no mulch touches the trunk or stem.
5. Keep soil moist for first few years but avoid overwatering.
Rule of thumb for watering: For first month or so, if it hasn't rained for 3 full days, water by hand, gradually extending watering to once a week.
For best success, do this throughout the hot summer. By the time cooler temps arrive in fall, the root system should be established well enough to get sufficient water from the ground.
6. Consider staking the tree to provide support in strong winds, to help establish a strong root system.
7. Protect from deer and other animals during first few years.

