



Sapling Program

Northeastern Extension
Total Reconstruction and Widening Project
Southern Section Construction
Mid-County Interchange to Berks Road (MP A20–A26)

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) is offering residents living adjacent to the Turnpike in Plymouth, Whitpain, and Worcester Townships an opportunity to receive, plant, and maintain evergreen saplings on their property.

The PTC is providing fast-growing evergreen saplings to replace the trees that were removed as part of the Northeastern Extension Total Reconstruction and Widening Project between Mid-County and Berks Road.

Upon receiving the saplings, property owners agree to assume full responsibility for planting and maintenance. The PTC and/or Whitpain Township will have no obligation or responsibility—and will bear no cost—for planting, maintaining, or replacing saplings.

Sapling Pick-up

Saturday, April 2 and Saturday, April 9, 2016
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Whitpain Township Building, Front Parking Lot
960 Wentz Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422

Where can residents plant the saplings?

Residents agree to plant the saplings on their property only. This excludes the Turnpike property where the mature trees were formerly located. It is recommended that residents plant saplings in a location where the mature trees will provide a visual barrier between their property and the Turnpike.

How many saplings can each resident have?

There is no limit to the amount of saplings a resident can take. However, it is expected that the residents plant and maintain all saplings they receive.

Types of saplings available



Norway Spruce

Binomial Name: *Picea abies*
Average Yearly Growth: 1–2 ft.
Average Height at Maturity: Over 60 ft.
Average Width at Maturity: 25 ft.
Conifer? Yes
Sheds Needles? No



White Pine

Binomial Name: *Pinus strobus*
Average Yearly Growth: 1–2 ft.
Average Height at Maturity: Over 80 ft.
Average Width at Maturity: 25 ft.
Conifer? Yes
Sheds Needles? Yes



Douglas Fir

Binomial Name: *Pseudotsuga menziesii*
Average Yearly Growth: 1 ft.
Average Height at Maturity: Over 75 ft.
Average Width at Maturity: 15 ft.
Conifer? Yes
Sheds Needles? No

Planting Tips

- When choosing a location for the sapling, consider the tree's adult size.
- Plant the sapling as soon as possible.
- Dig a shallow, broad planting hole about three times the size of the root ball. If the hole is too shallow, the main root will curl up in a "J," which weakens the tree's stability. If the hole is too deep, the roots will not get enough oxygen.
- Don't let organic matter such as leaves and grass get into the planting hole, as it can decompose and leave air spaces, drying out roots.
- Plant sapling with roots straight down, not spread out. Make sure roots are not bunched up or curled.
- Plant quickly once you remove the moisture from the roots. Very fine roots can dry out in less than a minute after exposure.
- Place the first main root at or slightly below the soil surface (see illustration at right).
- Fill the hole with loose soil to eliminate air pockets. Gently but firmly press the soil down with hand or foot.
- Place 3–4 inches of mulch around the sapling, leaving a gap between the trunk and the mulch to prevent rot, diseases, and fungi.
- Water the sapling.

Maintenance Tips

- Water the tree deeply, about 1 inch of water, every 7–10 days. Water the tree during dry periods for the first three years. Avoid light watering, as it will encourage shallow root growth.
- Mulch each year, avoiding contact with the trunk.
- If your tree appears unstable, stake it using cushioned straps. Allow enough slack for the tree to sway. Most stakes can be removed after one year.
- Prune broken, dead, poorly attached, malformed, or crossing branches from the newly planted tree. Do not prune for visual balance. Trees should have one main trunk, so remove or prune back any competing leaders, which take energy away from desirable growth.
- Wound dressings after pruning are unnecessary and can sometimes be detrimental.
- Trees grow from the tips and top, not from the bottom.

