

## Fall Tree Planting

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In early fall, there is no better time to assess the toll of a long, hot summer. Many people leave planting trees and shrubs for the springtime, but I find that early fall is an ideal time to add to your collection or replace what you may have lost this summer. There are numerous benefits and advantages to fall planting that you should consider.

Most of Iowa's native tree and shrub species can be planted September through November. Cooler, and sometimes wetter, conditions in the fall lend themselves to a more enjoyable planting experience for both you and the plants. These conditions allow the roots of plants to establish before the ground freezes and gives them a head start once the ground thaws in spring. You still have to water and choose the right tree for the right place, but it's much less maintenance when compared to planting in the spring. Last but not least is cost. Many nurseries will have less inventory to choose from in fall, but what they do have tends to come at a heavily discounted price.

I have found that fall planting generally tends to have the most success for myself and it has become my favorite planting season. Between the cost of planting stock, the survivability rate, and overall less maintenance associated with fall planting, you should consider visiting your local nurseries and adding to your yard this season.

