



# The Neighborhood Planting Project

## Tree Planting Basics

How big do the plants get?

Hazelnuts and Elderberries will get 6-12 ft tall and about that wide. Chokecherries often stay closer to 15 ft but can grow up to 30 ft tall and 15-20 ft wide. Plum trees can grow to 15 ft tall and wide. Persimmon trees can get up to 60 ft tall with 25-30 ft spread. Pawpaws can grow to around 35 ft, but more often 20 ft.

### Recommended spacing & pollination:

Hazelnut: 3-5 ft min — self fertile but fruit better with two plants near each other

Elderberry: 3-6 ft minimum — self fertile

Chokecherry: 10 ft min — self fertile

Persimmon: 12-15 ft min (and away from sidewalks and where fruit drop will be a nuisance)

Pawpaw: 6-8 ft min (25 ft maximum for pollination, two plants needed to fruit)

Plum: 8 ft min — self fertile

### Sun & moisture needs

Pawpaws like some shade, and then to grow to be more sun-tolerant as they mature – they are an excellent understory planting beneath larger trees. Chokecherries are shade tolerant. Hazelnuts and elderberries are partial-shade tolerant but will be noticeably less productive. Plums and persimmons need sun. Chokecherries and elderberries do best in moist soils. Native trees have fewer watering needs, but care should be taken during dry spells. It's better to water deeply and less often, so a five gallon bucket of water per week is better than a light watering daily. Mulch will aid in retaining moisture, as will planting native ground covers.

### More Plant Info

Maintain a mulched ring 2-3 feet in diameter around the young trees to suppress grass that will compete with the trees for nutrients. When placing trees, take into account your interests and plans for use. Only plant near a sidewalk if you want to share the harvest and can commit to cleaning up fallen fruit regularly. It is best to remove any invasive plants nearby that could compete with the trees.

Chokecherry — Bush of berries that are useful mostly for jams and pies, birds love them, a common ornamental plant w/ big white flowers and bright fall foliage, very nutritious (vitamin c, antioxidants, ...). Seeds are not edible and fruits can be bitter and astringent, especially when not fully ripe, hence the name (and why people add sugar to make them into jams, etc). Forms dense thickets when planted in a row (useful for privacy hedge). Harvest in 3-4 years.

Hazelnut — Traditional hedge plant, nuts can be eaten raw, dried or cooked; wildlife like the nuts, good for privacy hedge. Harvest begins in 3-4 years.

Elderberry — Bush with berries used to make a popular anti-flu tonic (usually as elderberry syrup). Flower tea, juice, or preparations from the berries (syrup, desserts, etc) are often used to treat symptoms of the common cold. Rich in vitamin C. Flowers are edible, often fried as fritters. Good windbreak and privacy fence. Harvest begins in 2-4 years.

Persimmon — Very sweet, delicious fruit. Astringent until just ripe. Uncommon at grocery stores because the fruits are very soft and don't pack well. Common as persimmon pudding or eaten fresh. Fruits later in the season and into the winter, nice to have fresh fruit after the leaves have fallen. Harvest begins in 3-6 years.

Plum — Wild native variety of common fruit. Smaller and flavorful. Domestic plums are often grafted onto it. Fragrant flowers open before leaves emerge in the spring. Harvest in 2-6 years.

Pawpaw — The "Indiana banana". A treasure lost to the modern food market, related to the tropical papaya. Fruit looks like a pear/mango and taste like custard. After removing the large seeds, enjoy chilled with a spoon like ice cream. Harvest in 4-6 years

for more information on the planting needs of other plant varieties, visit: [neighborhoodplantingproject.org](http://neighborhoodplantingproject.org)