



Hidaya Foundation

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Why & How to Plant Trees?



*“And the stars and the trees do prostrate (to Allah).”
(Al-Quran, Chapter 55, Ar-Rahman, Verse 06)*

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How Trees Benefit Us

Planting trees have a positive influence on people and the environment they share. Planting a tree enhances the quality of life and improves health. A few of the many benefits of trees are listed below.

- **Produce oxygen and absorb Carbon Dioxide (CO₂):**

A mature leafy tree absorbs carbon dioxide (CO₂) and produces as much oxygen (O₂) in a season as 10 people inhale in a year.

- **Help keep the air clean:**

Trees intercept airborne particles, reducing heat, and absorbing such pollutants as carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. Therefore air pollution is reduced by lowering air temperature, through respiration, and by retaining particulates.

- **An effective sound barrier:**

Trees muffle urban noise almost as effectively as walls. Planted at strategic points in a neighborhood or around your house, they can reduce traffic noises.

- **Become a "carbon sink":**

To produce its food, a tree absorbs and locks away carbon dioxide, a global warming suspect. An urban forest can lock up as much carbon as it produces.

- **Provides shade and cool**

Shade from trees reduces the need for air cooling devices during the hot summer months.

- **An effective windbreak:**

During windy and cold seasons, trees act as windbreaks. A windbreak can lower home heating bills up to 30%.

- **Reduce soil erosion and conserve water:**

Trees fight soil erosion, conserve rainwater, reduce water runoff and sediment deposit after storms and floods. Trees also reduce the risk of flash flooding.

- **Beautify land and increase property values:**

Real estate values increase when trees beautify a property or neighborhood.

- **Help purify land from harmful chemicals:**

Land which contains heavy metals and other contaminants can be planted with trees, which absorb pollutants and reduce their levels in the future as the timber is harvested.

- **Provide sanctuary for wildlife:**

Trees provide sanctuary to animals enabling them to flourish and balance the eco-system.

- **Assist in economic development:**

Trees add to the local economy in a variety of ways; the trunk is used as timber, fruit as food, and leaves as fodder for animals.

- **Planting a tree is like performing an act of worship (Ibadah):**

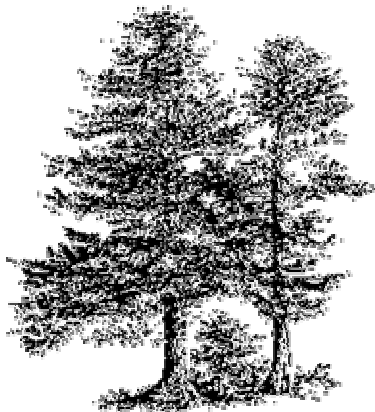
The more trees you plant the more trees prostrate (make sujood) to the Creator. Even after a person dies, the trees that he/she planted keep prostrating - an unending worship. *“And the stars and the trees do prostrate (to Allah).”(Al-Quran, 55:06)*

- **Planting a tree is a Sadaqah-Jariya (perpetual charity):**

The Prophet (pbuh) said that: “If any Muslim plants any plant and a human being or an animal eats of it, he will be rewarded as if he had given that much in charity.” (Sahih Bukhari Vol. 8, Number 41) Imagine even after one’s death, rewards keep accumulating.

Importance of planting trees

The Prophet (pbuh) said that “If the Hour is about to be established and one of you was holding a palm shoot, let him take advantage of even one second before the Hour is established to plant it.” (Reported by Ahmad and Al-Bukhan on the authority of Anas in Al Adab Al-Mufrad, see also Sahih Al- Jami’ Al-Saghir, No.1424)



How to Plant Tree?

- Plant the tree seedling as soon as possible - in cooler climates, before it gets very hot. If it is very cold or hot, plant the tree indoors first, in a pot, and then transplant it outdoors once the chance of frost or extreme heat is over.
- Prepare a planting area with adequate space for the tree to grow both above and below the ground. (Avoid overhead wires and underground utilities)
- Add new soil to the area if local soil is not of good quality. Mix the new loose soil with the manure (animal dung or chicken litter) and water it for 3 to 5 days.
- Dig a hole that is 2 to 3 feet deep and 1 to 2 feet wide; partially fill it with new soil mixture. If the local soil is reasonably good, 1 to 1 ½ feet deep and 1 feet wide hole should be sufficient.
- Place the root collar (the place where the roots join the stem) at soil level. Fill the rest of the hole with soil.
- Settle soil with water to avoid air space.
- Protect seedling from damage caused by feet, lawnmowers, pets, etc. by placing a barrier/partition around the seedling.

Coppicing

If not properly maintained, some trees do not produce a true terminal bud. A lateral side bud develops into a new leader each year, producing a stem in a different direction that result in a poorly formed tree. It is preferable that each tree produce a single log, which is of high quality, straight and 10 to 16 feet long. Cutting young trees at ground level and allowing them to re-sprout from the root collar is called coppicing. This operation results in more straight, better formed stems. The purpose of coppicing is to promote a clear, straight long sprout in the first year following coppicing. Stems should be coppiced when trees have a 3 inch root collar; at that stage, the tree has developed an adequate root system to allow a long sprout in one growing season. Trees should be coppiced before spring growth and the resulting multiple sprouts should be thinned to the strongest single sprout in early summer.