



GREATER  
*Chatham*  
INITIATIVE

 **Tree Care**   
**Guide**

✦ **Keep Trees Thriving!** ✦



**Use this Guide to take care of your tree!**



# Your Tree Profile

## ✦ Black Tupelo ✦



Black Tupelo is a stunning and extremely hardy cultivar with gorgeous fall colors! It was selected for its upright growth habit, branching from a strong leader. Dark, glossy green leaves turn to shades of red, orange, yellow, and purple in fall. Small greenish-white flowers appear in spring, a perfect source of nectar for bees. The flowers are followed by bluish-black fruit that birds adore. Enjoy as an ornamental shade tree, street tree, and within landscapes to naturalize areas.

# Growing Conditions & Key Features

## Growing Conditions

**Sun Exposure: Full Sun**

**Fall Color: Yellow, Orange, Red, Purple**

**Fruit : Black (not edible)**

**Mature Height: 30 - 50FT**

**Mature Width: 20 - 30FT**

## Key Features:

- **Attract Bees**
- **Attract Birds**
- **Native tree**
- **Provides shade**

Trees provide natural flood control by absorbing rainfall and reducing water runoff. In urban areas, they can reduce storm water management costs by up to 7%.

# Maintenance Care for Black Tupelo

## Pruning

- It should be pruned in winter or early spring. Trim back broken or dead branches to clear for circulation and proper growth.
- Be sure not to heavily prune your plant too soon.
- Prune and remove any broken or damaged branches..
- Remove branches that may be too low. This will also help promote faster top growth.
- Additional pruning to help can be achieved by selectively removing branches that are too close or otherwise might not be proportionate with the rest of the tree.
- All pruning should be done with sharp pruning shears

## Watering - After Planting & Throughout the season

- Plants typically take approximately 6 weeks to establish new roots in your soil. During this period, water plants as often as every 2-4 days at the start and at least a minimum of once per week. Beyond the 6 week establishment period, water once per week, unless rains occur.
- After the first season, plants should only be watered during extended periods without rain.
- How do you know if your plants need water? The easiest way to tell is to touch the soil around the roots. If it is moist, there is no need to water. If it is dry, give it a good soaking with the hose end (no nozzle) watering the soil only, not the leaves.
- Stick your finger into the soil around 3''' to check soil moisture.

# Five Steps to Properly Remove a Branch

## 1. ASSESS THE TREE'S PRUNING NEEDS.

Stand several feet away from your tree and assess the tree's shape from several angles, identifying which branches should be prioritized for removal. Focus on dead and damaged branches. Determine which branches are dead by making a small scrape in the bark with your thumbnail. If you see green, the branch is still alive.

## 2. IDENTIFY THE BRANCH COLLAR.

Identify the collar (the swollen area at the base of the branch where it connects to trunk) on the branch you wish to remove.

## 3. MAKE AN UNDERCUT.

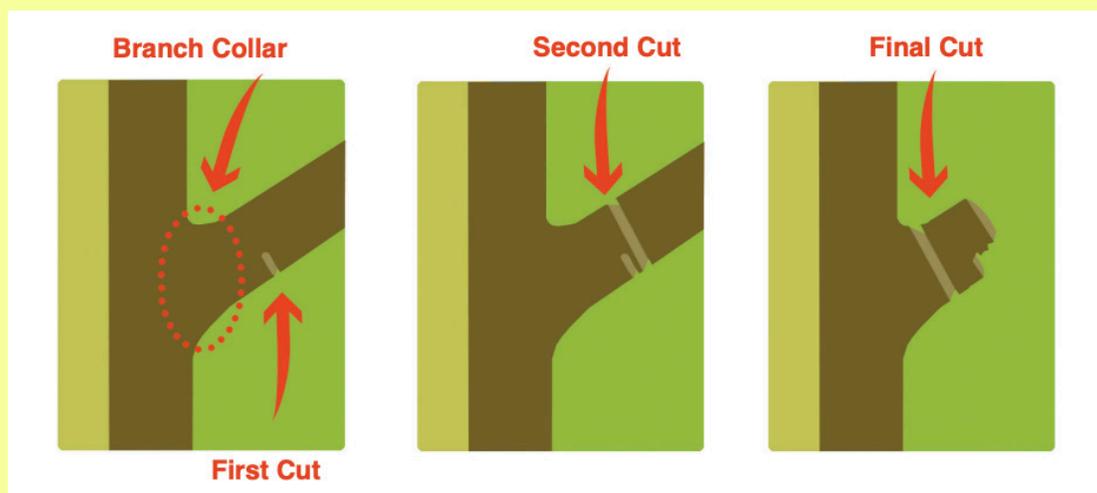
Using a handsaw, make a shallow undercut (cut upwards from the underside of the branch) 12-18" from the point where the branch attaches to the trunk, but do not cut the entire way through the branch. This cut will help to prevent ripping or tearing the bark.

## 4. MAKE A SECOND CUT TO REMOVE THE WEIGHT OF THE BRANCH.

Next, place your handsaw a few inches beyond your undercut and cut downwards through the branch from top to bottom. This will remove the weight of the branch, leaving just a stub and making it easier to make your final cut.

## 5. MAKE A FINAL CUT JUST ABOVE THE BRANCH COLLAR.

Finally, remove the stub by cutting the branch just above the collar. Cut slowly and evenly using long strokes, making sure the surface of your cut is smooth and flat



# General info & Care for your tree

## General Tips

- Keep a crisp edge between the grass and the planting bed/ mulch ring.
- Maintain 3" of shredded bark mulch for your mulch ring around the tree.
- Stake trees in wind prone areas. Maintain stakes for the first growing season. A stake using a looped strap of cloth or rubber hose can be used to steady the tree. Never tie the tree to the stake tightly. Remove stakes after the tree trunk is stable and firm in ground (usually after 1 year of stake installed).
- Test soil for nutrients available in soil to add fertilizer in the early Spring to provide needed nutrients for the fruit trees production

## Contact US!

Should you have any questions, need additional information, or wish to move forward with scheduling our next site visit, please feel free to reach out.

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# Resources for Tree Guidance

## University of Illinois Agricultural Extension

Local Agricultural extension that can provide resources related to fruit trees

Cook County Extension Office (Cook Main Chicago South)

Address: 8751 S Greenwood Ave Suite 112, Chicago IL 60619

Phone: 773-800-2078

Email: [uie-cook@illinois.edu](mailto:uie-cook@illinois.edu)

Hours: Monday - Friday 9 am to 3 pm

## Morton Arboretum Plant Clinic

Website:

<https://mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/expert-advice/contact-plant-clinic/>

Phone: 630 719 2424

Email: [plantclinic@mortonarb.org](mailto:plantclinic@mortonarb.org)

## International Society of Arboriculture

Find a certified arborist in your area to contact about tree related work at [Treesaregood.org/findanarborist](https://treesaregood.org/findanarborist)

## Illinois Arborist Association

Find an arborist company in your area to contact about tree related work at <https://illinoisarborist.org/find-an-arborist/>

## Openlands TreeKeepers

A volunteer-led program by openlands, where community members are trained on tree basic knowledge, education, and tree maintenance and care.

Website:

<https://openlands.org/programs/treekeepers-certification-and-program/>

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## Olive-Harvey College, Urban Agriculture Department

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