

Homegrown Takoma

Friends of Native Trees in Takoma (fontt.org) is accepting orders for native trees, tall native shrubs, and deer guards. **This program is for residents of Takoma Park MD.**

Here's the deal

<i>What WE provide</i>	<i>What YOU provide:</i>
Native tree or tall shrub of your choice (free).	Area around tree (5 ft. diameter) cleared of invasive plant species prior to planting.
Deer guard to protect against deer browse.	Payment for the deer guard (currently \$30). A deer guard is mandatory unless you have a deer-proof fence to protect the tree. We can vary the size of the deer guard to fit your situation but this may affect its cost.
Installation of the tree or shrub and deer guard , at a date and time arranged with you.	Your street address, email address, and phone number , so FONTT can arrange installation. We'll send you an email about installation, once we receive your order.
Advice and assistance on tree care and any problems with your tree guard.	Tree watered as needed . (Click hyperlink for watering requirements.)
Monitoring the growth and health of your tree for three years.	Access to the tree for FONTT to monitor annually the tree's growth and health for three years.

See next pages for more information on the deer guards and available tree and shrub species.

If you would like to order a tree or ask a question, email

friendsofnativetreesintakoma@gmail.com

Deer Guards

The purpose of our deer guards is to protect against deer browsing. These are NOT those plastic guards that circle tree trunks solely to protect against bucks rubbing against the trunks.

Each deer guard consists of a 4 ft. dia. circle of 5 ft. high fencing around the tree, with 3 metal stakes to anchor the fencing. Depending on the tree species, the deer guards will have to stay in place for two or more years, until the tree's lower branches are out of deer's reach.



Available Trees and Shrubs

We currently (as of April 2026) have 4-5 ft. [American elms](#), and 1-2 ft. [white oaks](#), [elderberry](#), and [American hazelnut trees](#), and [gray dogwood](#), [American plum](#), and [spicebush](#) shrubs.

These photos provide a sense of tree and shrub sizes.



White oak 1 ft.



American elms 4 ft.

Area Around the Tree

We insist that you clear away any [invasive plant species](#) from a 5 ft. circle around the tree, that is, well away from the area that will be enclosed by the deer guard.

We strongly encourage you to have mulch ready to spread around the tree as soon as it's planted. That mulch could be fallen leaves, City of Takoma Park mulch or compost, wood chips, etc. **We suggest** that you eventually plant the area with native plants to provide a permanent mulch and habitat, especially [soft landings](#).

Mulching or planting native plants under trees is a good practice for your existing trees as well. The area covered should reach the dripline, that is, to the ends of the farthest-reaching branches.