



Green Corner NWPASynod Green Team

Fall is an excellent time to plant trees, and it's also a good time to rescue smaller tree and shrub seedling volunteers like oaks and maples now sprouting in various flower beds and waste areas all around us so this project can be free or very inexpensive if you plant nuts and seeds to increase the amount of vegetation around you and provide food for wildlife. Do ask homeowners before you uproot seedlings in flowerbeds other than your own. Or you can purchase seedlings or larger trees to plant. God helps us with the watering in fall and winter. If you have concerns about plants being dry, don't hesitate to get out there and water them. Always use the best soil you can, and that may mean that the soil at the surface should go into the hole with the roots. Always use something as mulch, to hold moisture in the soil while trying not to touch the little tree with mulch. I even recycle old clothes as mulch, as long as the tree is in an established garden bed, absolutely not where a lawnmower would touch the fabric. That's an instant tragedy! Mowed grass is an excellent free mulch and improves soil as well. Protect the new seedlings from chewing animals. I cage all new trees until leaves and small branches are taller than me, beyond where deer can reach. It's amazing how fast trees grow, some far more than a foot a year! Planting trees around houses can lower temperatures in the yard and in the house as well, if they are properly sited. I have whole house air conditioning but have had no need to use it for years. The trees make the difference. Do some research, looking for what conditions your seedlings will need- sun or shade, dry or damp conditions. Conifer trees and shrubs on the north and northwest side of a house block cold winter winds and help to cool the area around them in summer. Deciduous summer shade trees should be planted on the west or east side of houses (mine are on the west). When the leaves fall, the sun can help heat the house in the winter. Reuse your leaves as mulch to feed the soil. Consider planting trees back far enough from houses to remove concerns of adult trees falling on houses. After living here 46 years, most of the thousands of trees I've planted are adult now. But I plant trees and nuts every year. It is a true blessing to feel the difference in air temperature and wind currents these trees make now, both in and out of the house. Please, be a blessing to God's world and plant for our future.