



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Keep it clean: pick up trash and pet waste near water
- Plant native trees near a watercourse
- Consider not cutting your lawn directly to the water's edge
- Install a rain barrel and rain garden
- Keep your lawn free of pesticides
- Participate in stream clean ups and tree planting events
- Call us at 902-420-7933 or email water@clean.ns.ca to learn about volunteer opportunities and ways to get involved!



GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY:

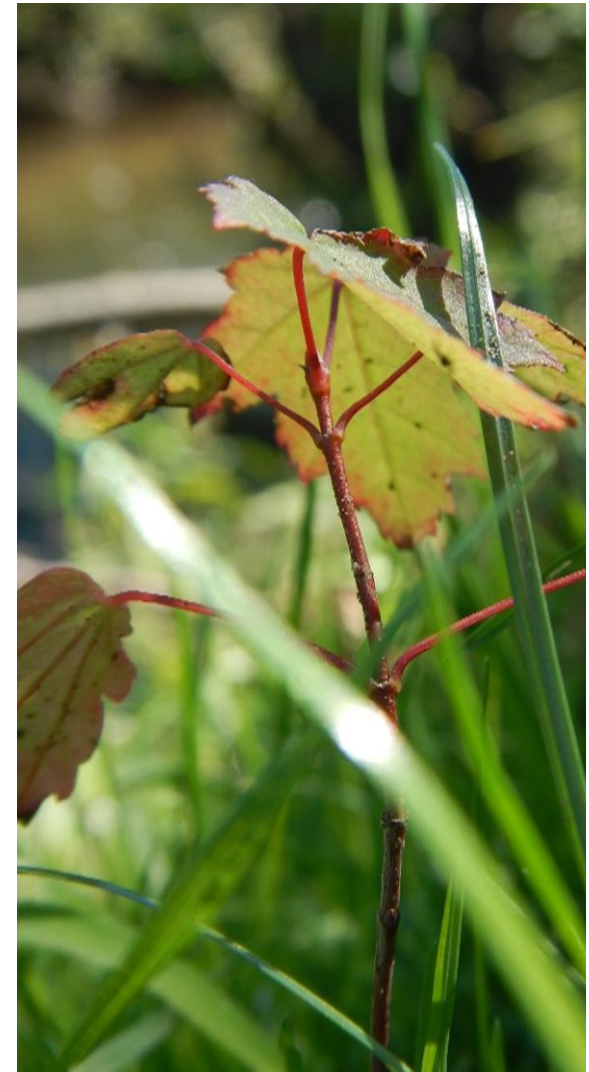


Fisheries and Oceans
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TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation



**Help Your
Watercourse Thrive!**
Guide to Planting Trees on
Your Property

Clean Foundation
126 Portland St.
Dartmouth, NS
Tel: 902-420-3474
E-mail: info@clean.ns.





WHY PLANT?

Vegetation growing along watercourses is extremely important for wildlife and water quality. This natural buffer is called the riparian zone. It provides food, shelter and transportation corridors for animals and migrating birds. It also offers shade, keeping the water cool for fish and providing a source of nutrients (via leaf fall) to other aquatic organisms.

Plants and trees help to improve water quality and flood control. Tree roots stabilize the banks by absorbing excess water and holding soil together, preventing it from washing into the stream. Soil acts as an emergency filter for pollutants flowing towards the stream from nearby landscapes.



WHAT TO PLANT?

Native species to consider planting:

- **Red spruce** – Need moist, sandy soil and likes full sun
- **White spruce** – Need moist soil and prefers full sun
- **White pine** – Long lived and prefers sunny, moist soil
- **Hemlock** – Grow in a range of soils and prefers shade
- **Balsam fir** – Variety of light and soil conditions
- **Tamarack** – Prefers moist soil, variety of light conditions
- **Sugar maple** – Need moist soil, tolerates shade
- **Red maple** – Need Moist soil, some shade
- **Yellow birch** – Prefers part shade and moist soil
- **Red oak** – Has high moisture tolerance and needs space
- **Poplars** – Fast growing and good for erosion prevention
- **Black Ash** – Prefer poorly drained soils with openings
- **Bebb Willow** - Prefer wet soils and full sun as a seedling
- **Red osier dogwood** – Food source for wildlife
- **Speckled Alder** – Variety of soil conditions and full sun
- **Wild raisin** – Food source for wildlife
- **Witch hazel** – Food source for wildlife
- **Sedges** – Grass-like and needs wet, poorly drained soils



HOW TO PLANT:

- Plant in the spring and fall, particularly during wet periods
- Don't plant seedlings near water holes, stumps, or rock
- Place the seedling as upright as possible, even on hills
- Never leave roots exposed to the air, as they can dry out and die within minutes
- Dig a hole deep enough to accommodate the roots and at the same depth as it was in the pot
- Place the tree or shrub in the hole and spread the roots around; be sure not to bury the branches
- Pack the soil well, press gently but firmly to prevent shocking the roots; air pockets can kill roots
- Never trim the roots
- If you're planting more than one tree, place about 1 m apart
- Water generously
- Mulch the plants with leaves, grass clippings, wood chips, landscaping fabric or sea weed, keeping the mulch 3-4 inches from the stem to avoid rodent damage in winter

