

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

TREE INFO CARD

Balsam Fir

(Abies balsamea)

Get to know your tree:

The balsam fir is a Michigan native species with flattened, glossy, dark green needles that emerge individually. Needles have circular bases and white bands on their undersides. Cones are small, cylindrical, and bluish-purple when young. Cones appear upright on branches. Bark is greyish-brown and covered with blisters, which contain a sticky and aromatic resin.

Tree benefits:

Over 20 years, a 1-inch diameter balsam fir is expected to provide approximately \$8.78 in benefits, avoid 218 gallons of stormwater runoff, and sequester 50.05 pounds of CO₂. To learn more about these benefits, or those of other trees, visit mytree.itreetools.org.



Fun facts about your tree:

The resin from this tree is used for mounting microscopic specimens and as optical cement.

This species has many medicinal properties, and the needles are high in vitamin C.



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Balsam firs grow to heights of 50-70 feet, with a spread of around 15-25 feet – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree in close proximity to buildings or underneath overhead utilities. Please also consider potential conflicts with solar panels. This species prefers slightly acidic soils. It is not tolerant of clay soils.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is moderately tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.



www.a2gov.org/10ktrees