



As you can see in the image we recommend planting other species along with your tree. Specifically we recommend including other plants that will fulfill the roles of...

## Nitrogen Fixing Shrubs

Goumi, autumn olive, sea buckthorn, bladder senna, genista, bush lupines, and ceanothus will all fix nitrogen for your tree minimizing your need to fertilize and providing other useful products, from dye to bee forage to berries. These pioneer species are likely to outgrow your tree at first. However, you can prune them as needed to make sure your tree is getting enough light. This pruning will release extra nitrogen into the soil for the tree.

## Soil Loosener

Daikon and sugar beets both function well in areas where the soil has been compacted. They are adept at breaking up soil with their enormous roots. You don't even have to harvest them as the big, juicy, organic plugs will become fertilizer for the tree in short order.

## Weed Barrier

Comfrey, elecampagne, daylilies, and sweet cicely all work well as weed barriers to keep grass away from the root zone of your tree. We like to include a ring of these plants three to four feet out from the trunk and planted tightly. As they grow and become lush in mid-summer you can chop them back and use the green material as

## Dynamic Accumulator

Depending upon the requirements of the tree you're planting and the conditions of your soil you may choose to incorporate a variety of dynamic accumulator plants into your guild.

These plants will concentrate certain micro-nutrients in their tissues. They can then be cut and used as mulch returning those nutrients from subsoil to the soil surface where your tree's feeder roots largely reside. Examples of dynamic accumulators include marigold for phosphorous, burdock for manganese & chives for calcium.

## Protection

Daffodils and euphorbias both work well when planted near the trunk of the tree to discourage burrowing rodents, such as gophers, from chewing up the roots & crown of the tree. They also provide color and texture in the early spring.

