



Frank P Matthews

Trees

Benefits of Autumn Planting



Warmer soil encourages root growth:

Even though air temperatures are cooler, the soil retains warmth from summer. Tree roots continue to grow while soil temperatures remain above about 4°C, allowing trees to establish before winter.



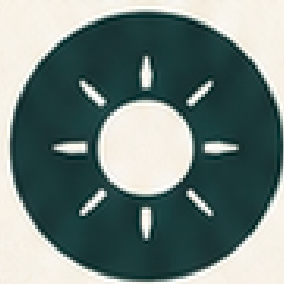
Stronger establishment before spring:

Trees planted in autumn spend several months developing their root systems, giving them a head start compared with spring-planted trees. By spring, they are already established and ready to put on vigorous new growth.



Reduced stress on young trees:

Cooler temperatures and lower rates of evaporation mean trees lose less moisture and can focus their energy on root development rather than coping with heat stress.



Better prepared for summer conditions:

Because roots have had time to establish through autumn and winter, trees are better equipped to cope with the heat and dry periods that may occur the following summer.



Natural rainfall aids establishment:

Autumn is typically a wetter season, providing more consistent moisture levels and reducing the need for supplementary watering. This helps encourage deep, healthy root growth.



Ideal time for bare root trees:

Autumn is widely regarded as the best time to plant bare root trees, and Frank P. Matthews specifically recommends autumn planting for these trees.



More comfortable planting conditions:

Cooler weather and often softer, moister ground make digging and planting easier for gardeners compared with the hotter conditions often experienced in spring and summer.



Gives trees the best possible start:

Combining warm soil, reliable moisture and reduced environmental stress creates excellent conditions for successful establishment and long-term growth.

Autumn is by far the best time of the year to plant trees.

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