

# Plant Privacy Trees

By JOE SZYNKOWSKI | Green Shoot Media

In-town dwellers tend to know a thing or two about lack of privacy. If a fence isn't an option, consider planting a row of privacy trees. Not only will this add beautiful greenery to your property, but your yard will have a sound barrier and feel more your own.

Of course, before actually planting your trees, you should always check with your city officials for information on their ordinances. Some cities may have certain restrictions on exactly where your trees may be planted, regarding power lines or city property.

Once you have the go ahead, you can start planning your privacy line.

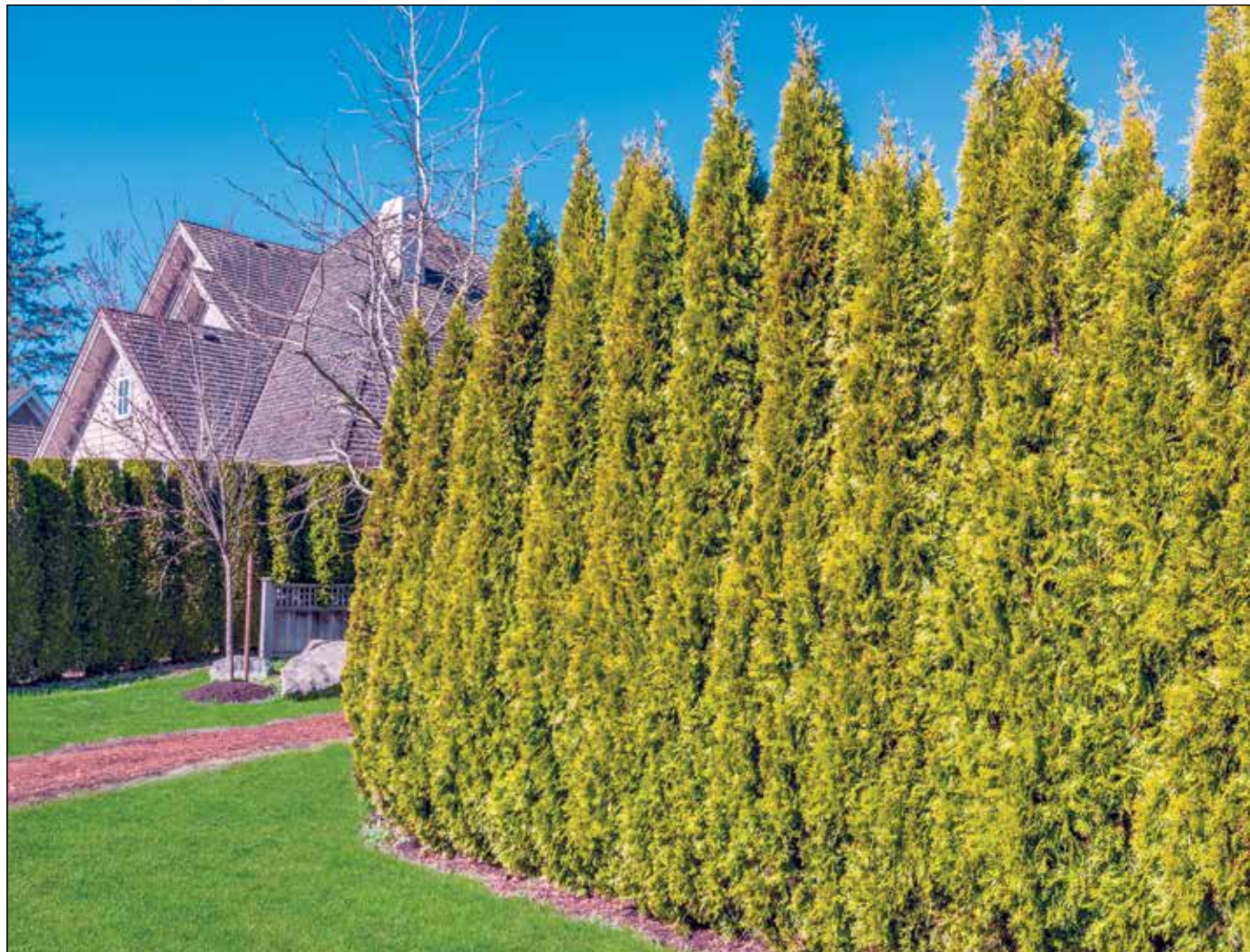
## POPULAR TREES AND HEDGES FOR PRIVACY

A well-planted tree line can create a gorgeous backdrop for your backyard. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, the following trees and hedges are the most popular when it comes to privacy.

### EVERGREENS

- **American Arborvitae:** This beautiful tree hedge can grow from 40 feet to 60 feet tall. You will want to keep up on trimming if there are power lines above.

- **Green Giant Arborvitae:** Another tall hedge that can grow up to 60 feet tall. It is considered "fast growing" with



## REAL ESTATE 101

### Green = Green

A 2009 study by Virginia Tech University found that landscaping is a great home investment over time, "since the growth and maturity of trees and shrubs enhance aesthetic appeal." The study said buyers prefer landscaping with a sophisticated design including large deciduous, evergreen and annual color plants and colored hardscape. By averaging data from various other studies, the authors estimated that improving a home's landscaping from average to excellent increases its value by 10 to 12 percent.

its rate of about 3 feet per year. neat appearance.

- **Nigra Arborvitae:** This species grows up to 30 feet tall and handles pruning well, making it easy to maintain a

### DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

Flowering trees make awesome property lines but can

leave you bare during colder temperatures. Here are a couple favorites from the foundation.

- **Rose of Sharon:** A hedge that grows flowers which take on the shape of trumpets. They are typically available in colors of white, pink, red, purple and violet.

### PLANTING

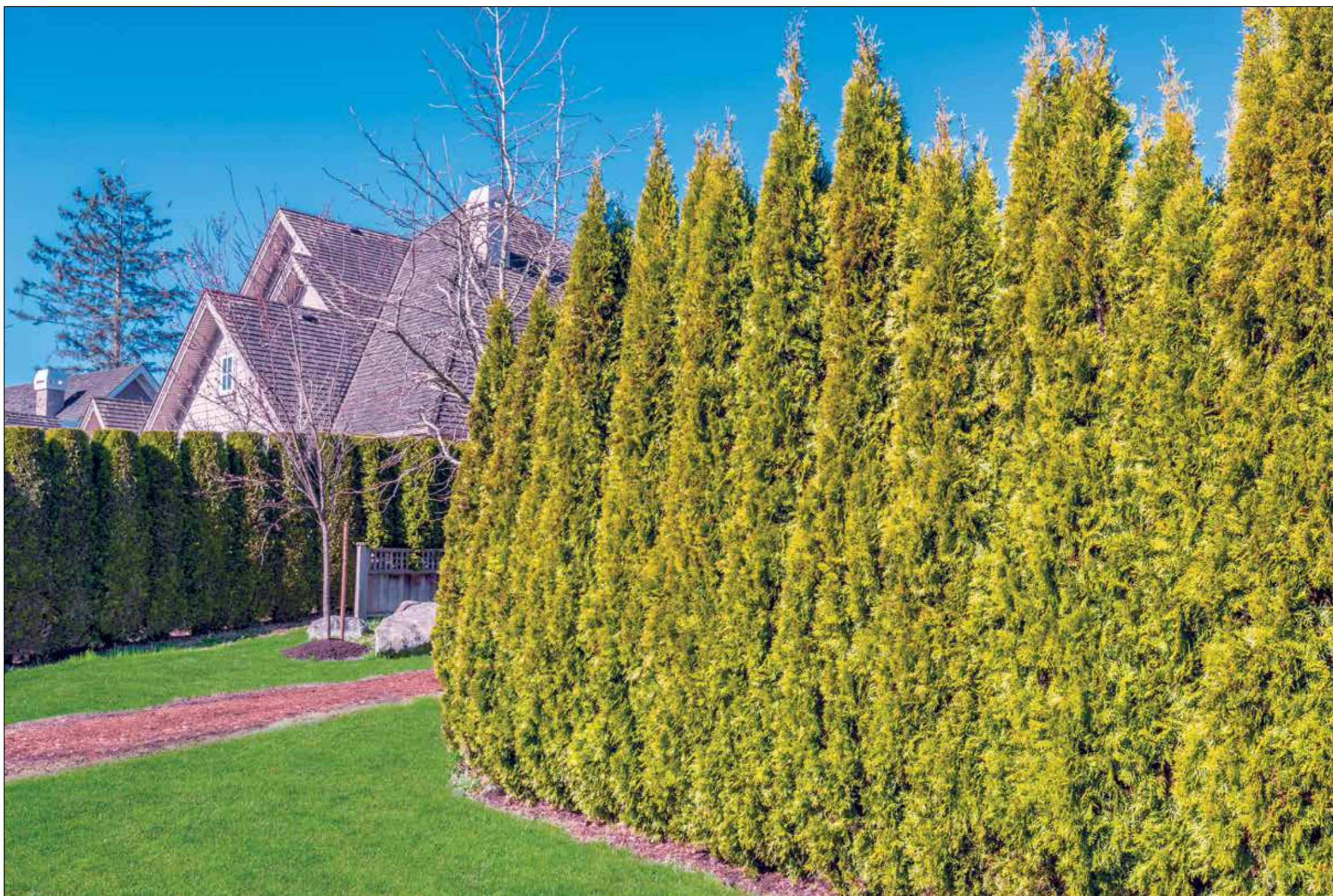
The experts at your local nursery will give you advice on the specifics on how planting individual trees will thrive in your climate.

A good rule of thumb, per the Arbor Day Foundation, is to leave at least 12 to 24 inches of space between rows, measuring from the centers of the plants. This will be your best chance at preventing root crowding, which can cause severe damage to a growing tree.

### TRAINING SHRUBS

General maintenance is required for your hedges to flourish but isn't usually necessary until they are established — typically one to two seasons after planting.

To train, the foundation says to trim the top and sides a few times per year, as needed. This will remove about half the length of new shoots. The shape of your hedges should be wider at the base to allow more sunlight in through the top.



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- **North Privet:** This

semi-evergreen shrub produces dense, glossy-green foliage. It typically grows up to 3 feet per year.

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### HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

**Comparables (comps) or comparative market analysis:** Comps are used in assessing or establishing the fair market value of a property, a property which has been sold recently that is similar in size, condition, location and amenities.

**SOURCE:** Columbia University

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