

Cape May Point Environmental Commission (EC) is Offering a Free Tree to Residents!

The Cape May Point EC is excited to offer one free Sweet Bay Magnolia tree, *Magnolia virginiana*, to the first 20 CMPT property owners who send an email expressing interest to **Gsallison@verizon.net** including their **full name, property in CMP address, and viable cell phone number** AND sign a form at the tree **pickup on May 26** committing to ALL of the following conditions:

Some details to know:

Pickup your reserved tree at Triangle Park on May 26 from 8-9A. The tree will be roughly 3-4 feet tall. If you cannot pick up the tree and transport it to your property on this day and time, please do not email Gsallison@verizon.net requesting a tree. Any trees that are not picked up during this time will be planted on public land and/or given to the next person on the waiting list.

Check for underground utilities by calling 811 prior to planting.

Avoid planting this tree in the right-of-way (as per the Borough tree ordinance); if you do not know where the right-of-way ends and your property begins, it may be planted at least eight feet back from the street.



In order to properly care for your new tree, residents should:

- Ensure that the root flare (where the trunk meets the roots) is at OR slightly above ground level to avoid rot. (NOTE: planting a tree too deep is the number one reason a tree dies).
- Apply a three inch layer of mulch in a three foot radius keeping the mulch three inches away from the trunk (this 3, 3, 3 rule is helpful whenever you are planting a tree). The mulch will be in the shape of a three foot donut.
- Apply 15 gallons of water per week for two years (unless the temperature is below 40 degrees) using a watering collar, a slow drip hose or a five-gallon bucket with holes.
- Plant the tree on your CMPT property no later than June 9.

The steps listed above represent sound planting guidelines and are designed to increase the chances that your new Sweet Bay Magnolia will thrive.

As a reminder, **the first 20 property owners who email Gsallison@verizon.net** (full name, CMP address, and viable cell phone number) **will receive a free tree**, which should **be picked up and transported to your home on May 26**. At pickup, you will be asked to provide your Cape May Point address (where the tree will be planted by June 9), and sign a form committing to the above tree care guidelines .

NOTE: We are offering these free trees in an effort to help address the significant tree loss that our community suffered during the major storm in February that resulted in a notable loss of trees.