

**Bernards  
Township**



**Shade Tree  
Commission**

# Happy Arbor Day!

The Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission is pleased to provide a small tree in celebration of Arbor Day. This tree is part of the NJ Forest Service's New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign. Although the goal of distributing over 600,000 tree seedlings to NJ residents was met in 2019, our state needs new trees more than ever before. Bernards Township received your tree ten days ago. It was recently dug up at the NJ Forest Service nursery in Jackson, NJ.

We potted your new tree seedling with top soil last Saturday and watered it. Once you get home we recommend that you place the potted tree where you would like to plant it and then water it. There is no hurry to plant it right away. Observe your tree in its selected spot and water it once a week. You might decide the tree belongs in a different location – simply move the pot. When you are sure of the best placement you're ready to plant.

**TO PLANT YOUR TREE:** Dig a hole exactly as deep as the soil level in the pot and three times as wide. Carefully remove the tree and soil from the pot. Place the tree with its lump of soil in the center of the hole. Back fill with the same dirt that you dug out. Tamp down the soil gently and water thoroughly. When properly planted and maintained, trees can improve the visual appeal of your home, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

It's okay to wait some months to plant your new tree – as long as you **water it once a week** and plant it before December. Your tree has been stressed by being uprooted, shipped and potted. Allowing time for the roots to recover and grow in the pot is beneficial for a new seedling. Remember to water your tree once a week after planting it in the ground. This will give your tree a good start in its new location. Enjoy your new tree and watching it grow!