

# What Trees Should You Plant Checklist

## 1. Identify Your Needs

- Are you looking for an abundance of food, a specific type of food, lumber, fodder for livestock, shade, or aesthetic appeal?
- Understand the purpose of the trees you're planning to plant.

## 2. Understand Your Growing Zone

- Conduct research to understand what trees grow well in your zone.
- Use tools like the [National Wildlife Federation's Native Plant Finder](#) to identify suitable trees for your zone.

## 3. Consider Heat Tolerance

- Understand the heat tolerance of potential trees.
- Consider the climate of your area and choose trees accordingly.

## 4. Understand Chill Hours

- Be aware of the chill hours (the number of hours a tree spends in cooler temperatures, ranging from 32 to 45 degrees F) required by each tree type.

## 5. Know Your Growing Zone

- Make sure to identify your growing zone.
- U.S. residents can find their growing zones at the [USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map](#).

## 6. Assess Disease Resistance

- Check if there are any common diseases that affect trees in your area.
- Ensure the trees you plan to plant are resistant to these diseases.

## 7. Invest Time and Resources Wisely

- Understand that planting trees is an investment in both time and money.
- Make sure you're making the best decision for your homestead.