

Tree-Friendly Underplanting Guide

GreenLeaf Tree Care - NYC Metro and Long Island Homeowner Guide 2026

Choose the Right Plants

1 Match the shade

Deep-shade specialists in dark spots, part-shade perennials where light filters through.

2 Go drought-tolerant

Pick plants that tolerate the dry, root-filled soil under a canopy.

3 Favor natives

Wild ginger, foamflower, and woodland phlox support local pollinators.

4 Skip the fighters

Avoid turf, sun annuals, and invasive ivy or periwinkle.

Plant Without Harming the Tree

1 No soil layer

Never add soil over the roots; plant into the existing grade.

2 Keep the trunk clear

No soil or mulch mounded against the bark.

3 Dig small and shallow

Use plugs; shift over if you hit a root thicker than a thumb.

4 Water the first season

New plants compete for moisture, so soak them consistently.

5 Mulch lightly

Two to three inches of wood chips, pulled back from stems and trunk.

Questions? Visit greenleaftreeremovalny.com to get in touch.