

Tree Planting Ceremony

Point of this Ceremony

Trees are used to represent life and growth in mythologies, legends, and novels. They are representative of life, wisdom, power, and prosperity. Philosophers regard trees as observers witnessing the evolution of humans and the planet around them.

Planting a tree to celebrate a new marriage is an ancient unity ceremony recognized in many cultures throughout the world. It is also eco - conscious in these times. It can be customized for anyone as there is no set-in stone way to accomplish this ceremony. It can be done in a backyard, a park or anywhere the wedding couple decide on planting the tree. It represents a relationship taking root, growing, and flourishing.

It can also be a potted plant if the couple wants to do the wedding indoors.

A couple plants a tree together to symbolize their marriage. The sapling is planted in fertile soil, given light and water and encouraged to develop deep roots. The same goes for a healthy marriage. They may bring soil from their family backyards. It symbolizes the continuity of family and the roots they have already grown

Who/What is added on?

You will need: 1) Indoor Plant

- Small table or altar
- Two small containers full of soil collected from places meaningful to the couple - childhood area, places where you travelled together or any other meaningful place.
- A potted plant meaningful to the couple
- Empty pot
- Watering can
- Two shovels

Music may be playing in the background while this activity is being done. As the officiant talks about the tree, partners plant the tree and may ask parents, family to help. They each take turns with planting and watering.

2) Plant a sapling, pre-potted tree or just water an already potted tree.

Choosing the Tree

You may choose to plant the type of tree that you shared a kiss under or one that means something to each of you for whatever special reason you choose.

Here are some choices.

Oak representing life, health, and family unity

Bamboo, embodies strength, flexibility, and renewal

Birch is fast growing and appeal to eco- conscious couples

Elm trees represent unity, a new perspective and freedom

Maple trees symbolize longevity, abundance, and protection.

Willows are hardy, rapidly growing trees associated with adaptability, renewal, and survival.

Apple trees suggest love, truth, beauty, and fertility. In Danish folklore, they are said to wither around adultery.

Fig trees indicate faith, stability, and enlightenment

Pear trees have pretty white flowers, can produce fruit for up to 50 years and represent longevity, good health, and abundance.

Pomegranate trees are ancient symbols of fertility and prosperity.

The white jasmine tree is known for its beautiful fragrant blossoms and is a symbol of sweet, romantic love.

Possible Wording to use

The officiant acknowledges the tree and talks about its significance.

Many times, the wedding couple write something about why they have chosen the tree and the intention behind it.

They may have a poem or song that is shared here as well.

When performing a unity ceremony, you talk about the meaning behind it. It symbolizes your joining together and once you are joined, what you create cannot be undone.

You may say “The Bride and Groom will now plant a tree signifying the joining of their lives together, the commitment that they have made to one another, and the strength and nurturing each will provide to the relationship as they grow and mature together.”

Or

_____ and _____, your home is a special place, a place where you brought this tree here to establish, to nurture and care for, that it may surround you forever with the beauty we now see. In this place where we all stand, you brought something else beautiful --- the relationship that is becoming your marriage. Here you are declaring it and pledging it, promising to establish and nurture it. We are all here with you to celebrate your relationship as it is and as it is yet to be. Your life together will have the same seasons and needs as your tree. There will be growth in the spring and loss like fall: there will be giving as the blossoming flower and rest as the seed beneath the snow. You will have to care deeply for your new tree and for the life that is now yours together. Nurture it. Appreciate your differences and cultivate them. You will have to take care of yourself, if for no other reason than out of love for the other. You will need the support of family and friends to reach full growth. As you caringly chose to plant this tree as a declaration of your marriage, so remember its lessons for life together through the seasons that are yours to share. And may those seasons bring you and yours joy and happiness.

Tree Ceremony Wedding Poems

From **THE PROPHET** by Kahlil Gibran “On Marriage”

You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore

You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days

But let there be spaces in your togetherness, and let the winds of the heavens dance between you...

Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.

Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.

For only the hand of life can contain your hearts.

And stand together yet not too near together.

For the pillars of the temple stand apart, and the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow

Love, like a tree,

Sends its roots down deep

So, when the storms of life abound

And the winds of adversity blow,

It shakes and bends

And goes with the flow

But doesn't break or fall.

And during times of drought

It drives its roots down deeper

So, whatever comes and goes

Summer, winter, spring, or fall

The good times and the bad

It stands the test of all

The Gift of a Tree by Lenore Hetrick

Trees offer to those who love them

A message of peace and rest.

They bring the glow of the setting sun

As it vanishes in the west.

They tell of years that swiftly pass

With little mark or scar
They tell of evenings that knows naught
But calm of evening star.
Trees offer to those who love them
Infinite wisdom and grace
Underneath their boughs tree lover
See eternity's face.

Marriage is like a tree.

The soil is the foundation you bring into the relationship. Know that your family history impacts the way you grow together.

The water is the words of your affirmation to each other. Water your life generously

The leaves provide shelter. Live your life together in your place of safety and security.

The fruit is the love that is born from a healthy relationship

The weeds are conflict. Pull often and be sure to get at the root.