

Tree Talk



Fall 2009

CONTR

A PARTNERSHIP WORKING TOWARD
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FORESTS

Workshops Planned

Two workshops have been planned for anyone who makes decisions about, or participates in, the maintenance of landscapes, large or small.

Both workshops will be held on one date—Friday, November 6th.

“Trees and Soils” will be presented in the morning by Eric Choker, Soil Scientist with the Spokane County Conservation District. Growing trees in urban soils can be a challenge. Eric will cover topics such as understanding soil reports, fertilization, compaction, and drainage. He will also cover the use of the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) “Web Soil Survey”.

“Proper Pruning” is the afternoon workshop and will be led by Jeff Perry, a Certified Arborist with the City of Spokane’s Urban Forestry program. Jeff will cover the basics of tree structure and pruning, followed by a field demonstration and an opportunity for attendees to try out some tree pruning techniques.

Both workshops will be held at the Trailhead building at Q’emiln Park in Post Falls. There is a \$10 registration fee per workshop that helps cover workshop costs. Besides instruction, attendees will receive related educational materials, snacks, door prizes, and a lunch for those who attend both workshops.

Pre-registration is encouraged since there is limited room. A workshop brochure and registration form is included with this newsletter mailing, or find it on-line at www.communitycanopy.com.

Getting Ready for Fall

By Jeff Perry, Arborist, City of Spokane Urban Forestry

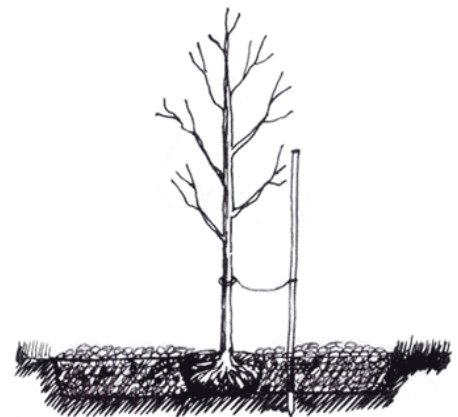
There is always a day that I find myself saying, “This is my favorite time of year”. Invariably, I will say this at some point during winter, summer, spring, and fall. And of course I will have to chuckle as I come to the realization that I am a fan of all four distinct seasons in our area.

Color is the main reason for my admiration for this time of year. And with the right conditions we should see plenty of brilliance within our towns and cities created by both the native and non-native trees and shrubs. Some of my favorites are larch, several ash varieties, tupelo, witch hazel, dogwood, yellowwood, and, I will admit, some of the maples.

There are a few things that need to be done this time of year to keep our trees and shrubs healthy and strong. These include watering, mulching, planting, and assessing future needs.

Watering should be carried out until the ground freezes. Watering slow and deep at a rate of five to eight gallons per caliper inch of stem diameter per week should be sufficient in most cases. Watering slowly and deeply is important to ensure that the water penetrates 12 to 18 inches deep where most of the roots are located. A soaker hose works well and should be placed at the drip line of the plant. If a soaker hose is not used, moving the hose several times as necessary to ensure proper watering of the root zone.

The benefits of mulch are numerous and include helping retain adequate soil moisture, providing a source of slow-release nutrients, mitigating temperature extremes, and keeping lawn equipment away from the tree trunk. The mulch should be approximately three inches deep out to the drip line, making sure no mulch contacts the tree by leaving a six inch gap between the trunk and where the mulch begins. If you already have mulch, a quick freshening up will be good. If you don’t have mulch, I highly encourage adding it to your landscapes.



Mulch 3” deep around (but not to trunk) of a newly-planted tree.

Now is the time for planting new trees and shrubs. Root growth continues for some time into the late fall and early winter. By planting now we can help the roots become established before next years’ growing cycle. Proper planting is

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critical so make sure you obtain up to date information on planting methods by contacting your local Urban Forester or the International Society of Arboriculture.

Pruning falls under the “assessing future needs” category. Resisting the urge to prune now is critical for the long term health of your trees and shrubs. This time of year is important for trees and shrubs to transition from the growing season into dormancy. Pruning interrupts that transition and forces plants to waste precious energy on reacting to the damage done by well-intended pruning. At this point, pruning is best left for winter for most plants. However, you should note pruning needs and plan for this future work.**

With that said, I encourage everyone to take a deep breath and look around during this wonderful time of year and enjoy the beauty it holds. Taking a leisurely walk through your community is recommended to observe and appreciate this wonderful show and I encourage getting up close and personal with plants to observe the intricacies of the colors at hand.

**Jeff Perry will be leading Community Canopy’s “Proper Pruning” workshop on November 6th.



Contact Community Canopy at:

Coeur d’Alene 208/769-2266
Post Falls 208/292-2315
Hayden 208/772-4411
Spokane County Conservation
Dist.–509/535-7274

Web Page: www.communitycanopy.org
Write: c/o Urban Forestry, City of Cd’A
710 E. Mullan Avenue
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814

Upcoming Events

October 24 - VIP (Volunteers In Pruning) Training Workshop
at Hayden Library in Hayden

October 31 - VIP (Volunteers In Pruning) Training Workshop
at Spokane County Conservation District Office
210 N. Havana, Spokane, Washington

November 6 - Tree Care Workshops
Trees & Soils
Proper Pruning
at the Trailhead Building, Q’emiln Park, Post Falls

Inland Northwest Green Industry Series:

October 29 - Introduction to Hazard Trees

November 5 - Relationship of Tree and Soil

November 19 - Introduction to Tree Appraisal

All workshops will be held at the Spokane County Conservation District

More Info and Register Online at

<http://pnwisa.org/calendar/pnw-isa-ceu-courses-and-workshops.html>

January 20–22 - Idaho Horticulture Expo in Boise

Contact Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association at <http://www.inlagrow.org>

February 4–5 - Turf, Tree & Landscape Conference in Spokane Valley

Contact WSU at 800/942-4978

What’s New?

Volunteers in Pruning

This new Community Canopy program is designed to improve the future of young trees in public places. The Volunteers In Pruning (V.I.P.) program will train local tree fans on the ins and outs of pruning recently planted trees—for form and structure. V.I.P volunteers will not only receive training, but will be provided the tools needed to prune public trees. Two training sessions are being held this fall: October 24th at the Hayden Library, and October 31st at the Spokane County Conservation District Office.

The training is free in exchange for putting in volunteer hours pruning public trees. Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older. Pre-registration is encouraged. Contact Katie at 208/415-0415 or Garth at 509/535-7274.

Tree Planting Details in CAD

Community Canopy tree planting details are available as CAD files. These details are the tree planting standards for the cities of Coeur d’Alene and Post Falls, as well as being endorsed by the City of Post Falls and the Spokane County Conservation District. If you would like to use these details in CAD format and agrees to use them un-modified, please e-mail your request to Katie at kkosanke@cdaid.org.

“Tree Talk” by E-mail

Would you prefer to receive your copy of “Tree Talk” by e-mail? If so, please provide us with your name, mailing address and e-mail address. We will shift you from our ‘snail mail’ list to our new e-mail list. Send your info to our mailing address (listed in the left column), or e-mail it to: kkosanke@cdaid.org.