

TREE TALK

Spring 2006

A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WORKING
TOWARD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FORESTS



Planting for Success

Contractor Registration

Be aware of new regulations.

Legislation was passed in 2005 that requires the registration of contractors working in Idaho. Under the legislation, a contractor is defined as any person who perform construction; or a construction manager who performs construction management services. The Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses has confirmed that this includes those who install irrigation and landscaping.

Contractors were given until January 1, 2006 to register. Since that date, it has been unlawful for any person to engage in the business of, or hold himself out as, a contractor in Idaho without being registered or otherwise exempt from registration.

The regulations extend to any person who engages in the business or acts in the capacity of a contractor, whether or not duly registered. Failure to register limits the ability of contractors to seek payment for their services through the lien process.

There are no education, experience, or examination requirements that must be met for registration. Applicants must, however, submit specific information about their business. Proof of liability insurance and worker's compensation insurance is part of that requirement. There is a \$30 application fee.

Additional information about contractor licensing can be obtained from the Bureau of Occupational Licenses. The Board's Home Page is <http://ibol.idaho.gov>.

There is a lot to planting a tree, especially if you want it to survive for generations. After tree selection, planting *correctly* is one of the most important things you can do to ensure the long-term success of a tree.

THE HOLE: "Don't plant a \$100 tree in a \$10 hole!" The hole should be from 2 to 5 times the width of the rootball of the tree. It is more important to dig a hole that is wide than a hole that is deep.

PROPER DEPTH: The tree should sit on solid, undisturbed ground so it will not sink below the level of the surrounding soil. Target the *root flare* when placing the tree. The root flare is the part of the trunk that widens

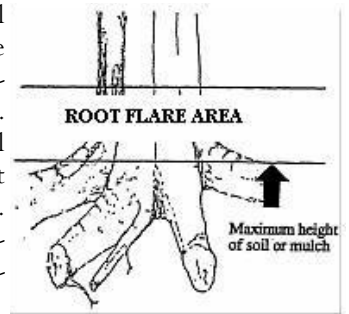
into the main roots. (You may need to dig some of the soil away from the top of a nursery tree to find the root flare.) Position the tree so that the flare is at, or slightly above, the level of the surrounding soil. (Do not confuse a flare with a graft union.) A tree planted too deeply will not get enough oxygen. Moisture against the trunk may cause rot.

BARRIERS: Any materials surrounding the root ball are barriers to developing roots. Remove all containers and, once placed in the hole, remove all wire baskets. After starting to backfill with soil, cut away at least the top half of any burlap. Make sure all twine circling the trunk is removed.

WATER: Trees can lose up to 80% of their root system during the process of transplanting. Watering regularly, at least once a week throughout the first few years following transplanting, will help re-establish the root system.

Call your city forester for more information about tree care and maintenance:

Post Falls: 773-8147
Coeur d'Alene: 769-2266
Hayden: 772-4411



Picture from Bartlett Tree Research

Tree Care Workshops

These \$5.00 workshops are designed for anyone who supervises or performs turf or landscape maintenance activities. For more information call Karen, 769-2266

Basic Irrigation

Friday, March 3
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

*with Dale Gephart, Landmark, and
Bill Greenwood, CDA Parks Dept.*

Tree Planting

Friday, March 17
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

*with Dave Stephenson
Idaho Dept. of Lands*

Bring life to your community...plant trees!

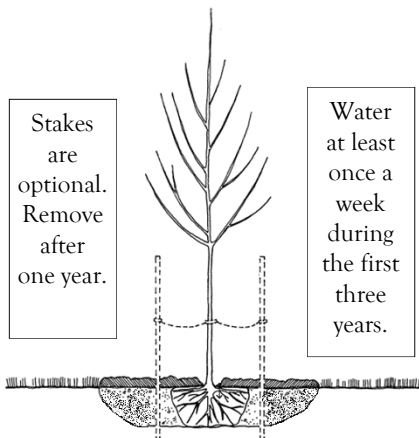
Community Canopy
c/o Urban Forestry
City of Coeur d'Alene
710 E. Mullan
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Phone: 208-769-2266
Fax: 208-769-2383
E-mail: karenh@cdaid.org



PLANT FOR SUCCESS!

MULCH! Protect your investment. Keep power equipment, including string trimmers, away from the trunks of trees.



Dig a hole wide, not deep.
Plant at the level of the root flare.

The Basics of Planting a Tree

Attend one of these 1-hour workshops and receive a voucher for a free tree to be given away on April 1st.

POST FALLS LIBRARY

Thursday, March 23rd
6:00 p.m.
Fri., March 24th, 12:10 p.m.
Call Linden 773-8147

COEUR D'ALENE

City Hall
Council Chambers
Two brown-bag workshops.
March 9 & 10, 12:10p.m.
Call Karen 769-2266

HAYDEN

City Hall
Council Chambers
Saturday, March 25th
10:00 a.m.
Call Angel 772-4411

What is Community Canopy?

The cities of Post Falls, Coeur d'Alene and Hayden recognize the value of trees. They strongly encourage and, in some cases, require tree planting as part of the development process. All three cities have seen many newly planted trees dying or failing to thrive. This creates a financial burden for the property owner who is required or wishes to maintain a landscape in good order.

Three common, easily remedied, problems have been identified as causing most tree mortality: improper planting, specifically planting too deeply; inadequate water following planting through the period of establishment; and damage from lawn

care equipment.

The three communities are working with the University of Idaho Extension, Landmark Landscape Architects and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) to educate those responsible for the care of trees.

Grant support comes from the IDL Community Forestry Program, in cooperation with the US Forest Service. Additional funding comes from Landmark Landscape Architects and Wal-Mart.

Community Canopy offers educational information and workshops to those who care for and maintain trees.