

Tree Talk



Spring 2007

A PARTNERSHIP WORKING TOWARD
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FORESTS

Right Tree, Right Place

Pick Me! Pick Me! Selecting the perfect tree

When you want to build a well-constructed, sturdy home, you start with superior building materials. To create a sustainable landscape, you begin with healthy, strong, well-formed trees. Here's what to look for:

- An adequate-sized root ball. Root balls should measure at least 10-12 inches across for every inch of caliper (diameter measured 6 inches above the soil).
- A healthy root system. Roots should not be overlapping, twisted, or crushed. Don't select a root ball or containerized plant with circling roots.
- A trunk flare visible at the soil line. This spreading base that connects to the roots should not be buried by soil.
- Trunks free from wounds or cracks. Pruning cuts are okay as long as a complete ring of tissue is growing to cover the wound.
- Good form. You'll want a strong, central leader. Branches should be evenly spaced along the trunk with good angles of attachment. There should be no included bark (bark squeezed between branches).

More information is available from your city forester.

Tree selection is often a spontaneous decision. Before selecting a tree, consider:

- what you want the tree to do (provide shade? wind break? be pretty? etc.)
- the characteristics of the planting site (soil type, sun exposure, moisture, space, etc.)
- pest and hardiness factors (susceptibility to insects and diseases, temperature extremes, etc.)

Trees can provide cooling shade and relief from strong winter winds when placed correctly in the landscape. A deciduous tree blocks out summer heat but permits filtered sunlight in winter after leaves drop. Conifers do a good job of blocking wind.

Consider the amount of room available for the tree to grow. Only small growing trees should be planted under utility lines. Avoid low, spreading trees along streets where visibility is essential. A columnar tree is a better choice. Think, too, about sunlight, drainage, and soil nutrients. Some trees are tolerant of soggy swale conditions, while others are not. Try to avoid potential conflicts with drain fields, sidewalks or underground utilities. Large trees should be planted at least 4 feet from sidewalks and driveways in order to prevent roots from uplifting them as the tree matures. Before planting, call "One Call," a public service agency that identifies underground utilities (1-800-428-4950).

Insects and diseases affect almost every tree and shrub species. However, some are more vulnerable than others. These problems can often be overcome with increased care, so determine how "carefree" you want your trees to be.

Tolerance to temperature extremes, or hardiness, needs to be considered. Our local area is zoned as "5" based upon USDA Plant Hardiness maps. Look for species hardy to zone 5 or lower.

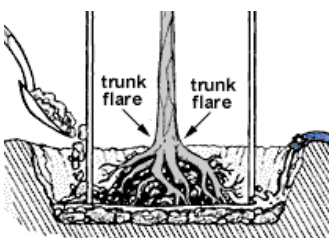
Now that you have defined your wants and site needs, species characteristics should be integrated into the selection process. Consider tree form or shape, mature height, growth rate, longevity, and ornamental features (such as foliage, especially fall color, bark, flower and fruit).

Your city's approved street tree list will help narrow down the search for your perfect tree. Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls have arboretums where you can look at the "real thing" before choosing your tree.

The internet has many sites that are helpful with tree selection. Check out:

woodyplants.nres.uiuc.edu/
www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/
oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/index.htm
orb.at.ufl.edu/TREES/index.html

Remember that permits are required before planting, pruning or removing trees within public rights-of-way. Check with your city forester or look on their Web site for more information.



The trunk flare should be visible at the soil line (left). Branches should be well spaced along the trunk. (right).



Branch attachments should be at an open angle (left) and free of included bark (right).





Tree Care Web Links

International Society of Arboriculture: www.treesaregood.com

National Arbor Day Foundation: www.arborday.org

City of Coeur d'Alene: www.cdaid.org

City of Post Falls: www.postfallsidaho.org

Contact Us at:

Post Falls 773-8147

Coeur d'Alene 769-2266

Hayden 772-4411

OR

Fax: 208-769-2383

E-mail: karenh@cdaid.org

Write: c/o Urban Forestry, City of Cd'A

710 E. Mullan Avenue

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Upcoming Events

- February 23, March 2, 9 – Spring Workshops (see “You Asked For It” for details)
- April 7 – Post Falls Arbor Day and “Plant-a-Tree Day”, Q'emiln Park – 773-8147
- April 27 – Idaho's official Arbor Day

Heads Up! What's New?

Want a pat-on-the-back? Watch for the Community Canopy recognition program to be announced this summer. We want to publicly recognize companies and businesses that provide high quality care for their trees and landscapes. Details will be announced later this year.

Remember, if you are planting trees within public right-of-way, you need to apply for a permit from the city in which you are working. Call your city forester for more information.

Community Canopy promotes three primary messages covering common, easily remedied problems identified as causing the majority of tree deaths: improper planting; inadequate watering to establish new trees; and damage from lawn care equipment.

On-site Workshops

We'll come to you!

What can we do for you? Community Canopy offers workshops and on-site “tailgate” training sessions, as well as printed information, about our primary messages and other tree topics, such as insect-and-disease problems, and pruning.

Tailgate training sessions on planting, watering and after-care of trees take as little as fifteen minutes out of your work day, but can make a huge difference in the quality of tree care you provide for your clients.

We are currently producing a tree-planting DVD that will be available to landscape contractors this spring, just in time for planting season.

To schedule on-site training for your crew, please call Karen at 769-2266, or leave a message at 415-0415.



You Asked For It!

Educational opportunities

In response to comments on workshop evaluation forms Community Canopy is pleased to offer three spring workshops.

Bob Wilson, University of Idaho Extension Horticulturist, will discuss management of aspen and cottonwood. Both in the *Populus* genus, these commonly planted trees are attractive and fast growing. They are also susceptible to a number of insect pests and diseases which can detract from their appearance and cause them to die prematurely. In a two-part series, learn how to identify these different afflictions and what can be done to protect the trees and promote healthy growth. **(Each class offers 2 pesticide recertification credits—both ID and WA credits are offered.)**

Dave Stephenson, Community Forestry Coordinator, Idaho Department of Lands, will discuss caring for trees from a tree's point of view. We expect trees planted in our communities to survive and thrive to old age. This doesn't happen by chance. Find out how and why to care for trees.

February 23 ~ Diagnosis of Insect Pests on Aspen and Cottonwood
Diagnostic methods for identifying insects will be covered, followed by an in-depth discussion of common pest insects (including borers, aphids and scales). Maintaining tree health is a key component of managing these insects and complements insecticide use.

March 2 ~ Diagnosis of Diseases of Aspen and Cottonwood
Diagnostic methods for identifying diseases will be discussed, then specific diseases of aspen and cottonwoods, (including foliar and stem diseases, and trunk decay). Management of these diseases requires good cultural practices and sanitation as well as judicious use of pesticides.

March 9 ~ After-Care of Community Trees
Tree-care techniques will be discussed. Learn not just how to water, mulch, fertilize and prune trees in certain ways, but why. You will never look at a tree in quite the same way again.

All classes are at the Idaho Department of Lands office, 3780 Industrial Avenue So., Coeur d'Alene, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Classes will be held indoors. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

Register by returning the enclosed registration form. There is a \$5 per person per workshop fee. (Info: Karen at 769-2266).