

# Tree Talk



Spring 2007

**A PARTNERSHIP WORKING TOWARD  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FORESTS**

## Arbor Day & Plant-a-Tree Post Falls giving away trees!

Mark your calendars for 9:30 a.m. on April 7th and come to Post Falls' Q'emiln Park to celebrate Arbor Day. And receive a tree to plant at your home!

Thanks to a generous donation from several community minded businesses, the city of Post Falls will distribute thousands of landscape-sized (5-to-9 feet) trees to area residents at its fourth Plant-a-Tree Day.

A short Arbor Day ceremony will be held before residents begin collecting their trees.

Trees are distributed at no cost to the public, however a free-will donation will gratefully be accepted. Donations are used to support Community Canopy's educational programs and plant trees in Post Falls.

Several tree species will be available, including small flowering and medium-to-large shade trees.

If you would like to reserve a tree, plan to attend a free planting workshop (dates listed in UPCOMING EVENTS) to earn a voucher which may be redeemed for a tree at a designated "express" location on April 7th. Or volunteer to help, and collect your tree before the action begins.

Trees may be reserved by homeowner's associations, churches and businesses that plan to plant in common areas or within public rights-of-way (including grassy swales).

Call 773-8147 for more information.

## Right Tree, Right Place

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.

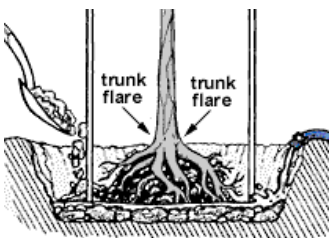
Now that you have defined your wants and site needs, species characteristics should be integrated into the selection process. Consider tree form or shape, mature height, growth rate, longevity, and ornamental features (such as foliage, especially fall color, bark, flower and fruit).

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/](http://woodyplants.nres.uiuc.edu/)  
[www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/)  
[oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/index.htm](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/index.htm)  
[orb.at.ufl.edu/TREES/index.html](http://orb.at.ufl.edu/TREES/index.html)

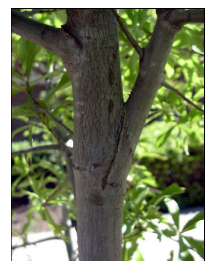
Remember that permits are required before planting, pruning or removing trees within public rights-of-way. Check with your city forester or look on their Web site for more information.



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



Choose trees with branch attachments that are at an open angle (left) and free of included bark (right).





## Upcoming Events

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](mailto:karenh@cdaid.org)

Write: c/o Urban Forestry, City of Cd'A  
710 E. Mullan Avenue  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

- March – Tree Planting workshops (Reserve a tree for Plant-A-Tree Day!)  
21st - Noon to 1:00 p.m. at Coeur d'Alene City Hall–Council Chambers  
22nd–7:00–8:15 p.m. at Coeur d'Alene City Hall–Council Chambers  
24th–10:00 a.m. at Post Falls Library  
27th–Noon at Post Falls Library  
27th–6:00 p.m. at Post Falls Library  
31st–10:00 a.m. at Hayden City Hall
- Feb. 23, March 2, 9–Tree Care Workshops (see “Educational Opportunities”, below)
- April 7 – Post Falls Arbor Day and “Plant-a-Tree Day”, Q'emiln Park (773-8147)
- April 27 – Idaho's official Arbor Day !!
- April 28 – Coeur d'Alene's Arbor Day at Mill River Park (769-2266)

## Pick Me! Pick Me!

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).

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

## Tree Care Web Links

International Society of Arboriculture: [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com)

National Arbor Day Foundation: [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

City of Coeur d'Alene: [www.cdaid.org](http://www.cdaid.org)

City of Post Falls: [www.postfallsidaho.org](http://www.postfallsidaho.org)

## Educational Opportunities

### Sharpen your skills

Community Canopy presents tree-care workshops for landscape professionals and others who take care of landscapes. There are three tree care workshops scheduled for this spring.

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 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.

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).