

Tree Talk



Summer 2008

A PARTNERSHIP WORKING TOWARD
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FORESTS

Too Much? Not Enough?

Did you know the signs and symptoms of drought and over-irrigation are the same? In drought, the available soil water drops below the needs of trees, shrubs, perennials, turf and ground covers. The plant wilts. If the lack of available water continues, the plants will reach the permanent wilting point (PWP). Plant cells begin to die. When we see the first signs and symptoms of drought, an application of water is well overdue.

Roots also need oxygen to survive. In over-irrigation, too much water causes suffocation and root death. When the roots die, water cannot be absorbed and moved up into the plant. Just like drought, the plant begins to wilt. If watering schedules are not changed, more roots will die, and PWP will be reached.

Set irrigation controllers to water based upon need, not time. Allow water to move through the soil and oxygen back into the soil. Watering longer, for only three days per week, will allow oxygen to move back into the soil, foster deeper roots, and promote healthy, perky plants.

And finally, set irrigation clocks for maximum Summer need, about .2 inches per week in July, and use the water budget key to gradually increase application rates in the Spring and gradually decrease application rates as Fall approaches.

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

E-mail: karenh@cdaid.org

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

710 E. Mullan Avenue

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Tree Planting Standards

Community Canopy is in the process of developing tree planting standards that can be adopted by all participating communities. The goal is to have uniform planting standards for public trees throughout the area. Public trees include those in parks, public cemeteries, the grounds of public buildings, and trees planted within the public rights-of-way (street trees).

The cities of Coeur d'Alene, Hayden and Post Falls already each have tree planting standards in place. Although these standards have much in common, they do vary somewhat from city to city. One of the benefits of having area-wide standards is that tree planting contractors will not have to learn and adhere to differing standards as they move from city to city. The standards will also be provided in an electronic format so that landscape architects can easily include them in project documents that include public trees.

As part of the process, Community Canopy is collecting input on the standards. We want input from all people involved in the tree planting process: tree growers, retail nurseries, planting contractors, landscape architects, and arborists. A draft of the planting standards detail for container stock can be found on the back of this newsletter. Standard details for B&B and bare root trees can be viewed on Coeur d'Alene's web site at <http://www.cdaid.org/urban/urbanforestry/whatsnew.htm>.

Please look them over and send your input to Angel (c/o Post Falls Parks, 408 Spokane Street, Post Falls, ID 83854) or any other Community Canopy participant.



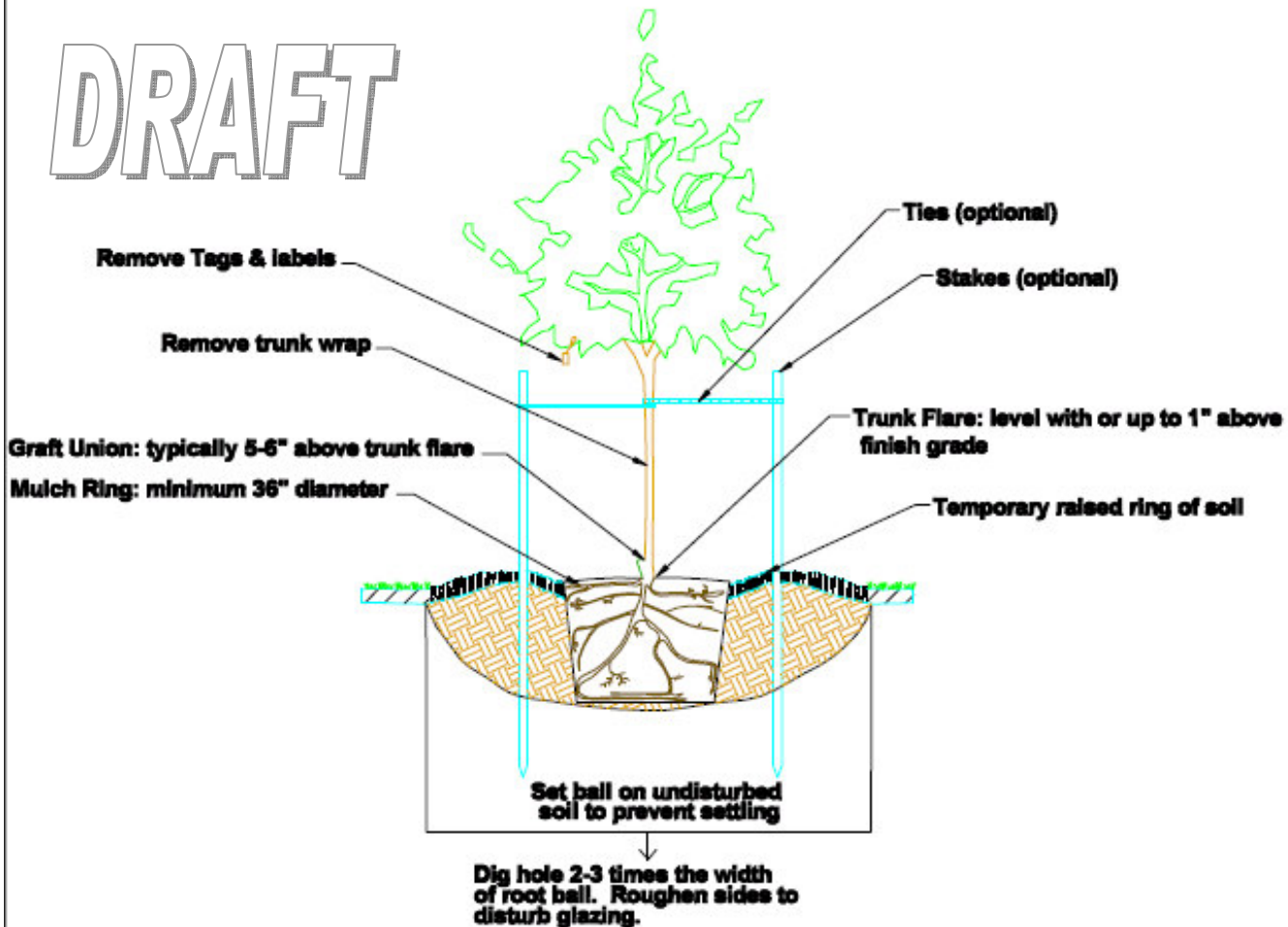
Finding the root flare of a container-grown tree at a Community Canopy tree planting workshop.

Tree Planting DVD

Community Canopy has a 12 minute DVD that highlights good tree planting practices for container trees. It can be played on a regular DVD/TV set-up, or on a computer that has DVD capability.

If you would like a *free* copy, contact Katie at 208/415-0415.

DRAFT



Planting Notes:

1. Plant materials must meet the minimum acceptable standard set by the American Association of Nurserymen's American Standard for Nursery Stock, ANSI Z60.1. Broken, damaged, diseased, or substandard stock are prohibited from being planted in the public rights-of-way and will be rejected.
2. Only Class I (small growing) trees are permitted to be planted under or within fifteen feet (15') of overhead utility lines.
3. Prune only broken or damaged branches.
4. Do not apply fertilizer at time of planting.
5. The depth of the root ball shall be measured from the bottom of the trunk flare to the bottom of the ball.
6. Remove any excess soil from top of root ball to expose the trunk flare. Plant with trunk flare level with or up to 1" above finish grade.
7. Remove container from root ball.
8. Straighten or cut and remove any circling roots.
9. Backfill planting hole 2/3 full with existing soil, settle with water, continue to fill with soil, water again. Water thoroughly after installation to eliminate air pockets.
10. Construct a temporary raised ring of soil at edge of root ball to contain water. Remove or breach before winter.
11. Construct mulch ring with minimum 36" diameter of aged woody material to a depth of 2-4"; leave 3" bare ground between mulch and tree trunk.
12. Stakes and ties are optional. Use only if necessary for stability. Set stakes parallel to prevailing wind and outside of root ball. Ties must be wide (minimum 1") flexible belt-like strapping. Do not use rope or wire. Do not over-tighten around tree. Ties should be tight enough to support the tree while allowing it to sway. Remove stakes and ties within one year.
13. Trees should be irrigated separately from turf. Water new trees during summer months to a depth of 12"-18" once per week (about 5 gallons of water per caliper inch) for the first 3 growing seasons. During periods of drought, new trees need more frequent watering.



COMMUNITY CANOPY-TREE PLANTING DETAIL For Container Plants

Endorsed by: City of Coeur d'Alene, City of Post Falls,
City of Hayden, Spokane County Conservation District

Adopted: Draft version May 20, 2008