

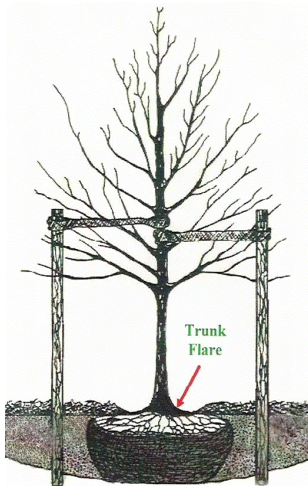


# Helping Trees Thrive

Research has shown that trees around your home can add 15% or more to its value! Not only are they pretty to look at, they have environmental benefits, such as turning carbon dioxide into oxygen and by cooling streets and homes with summer shade.

To maximize the benefits of your trees, keep them healthy and growing using the following simple and low-cost tips.

## Plant



- Be sure that you plant trees at the correct depth. Find the Trunk Flare and position it at, or a few inches above, ground level.
- Mulch is beneficial for keeping the soil cool and moist. Mulch wide, but not more than a few inches deep. Keep mulch away from the tree trunk.
- If stakes are installed, they should be removed after one growing season.

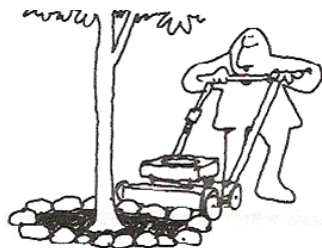
Drawing courtesy New Tree Planting brochure, International Society of Arboriculture, 1998

## Protect

Keep power equipment away from trees! Lawn mowers and string trimmers cut through the bark, destroying the living layers that transport vital water and nutrients.

To prevent damage:

- Keep grass at least a foot away from tree trunks
- Mulch rings simplify maintenance and prevent damage



Drawing courtesy Tree City USA Bulletin No. 14—National Arbor Day Foundation.

## Water, Water, Water

Provide a minimum of 5 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter each week to the root area of new trees. Adjust the amount for weather and soil type.



Don't depend on shallow watering for turf. Water slowly and deeply:



- Install drip irrigation, or
- Use a soaker hose, or
- Place and fill 5 gallon buckets, with very small drip holes in bottom, over roots.

*Tree tips from*

