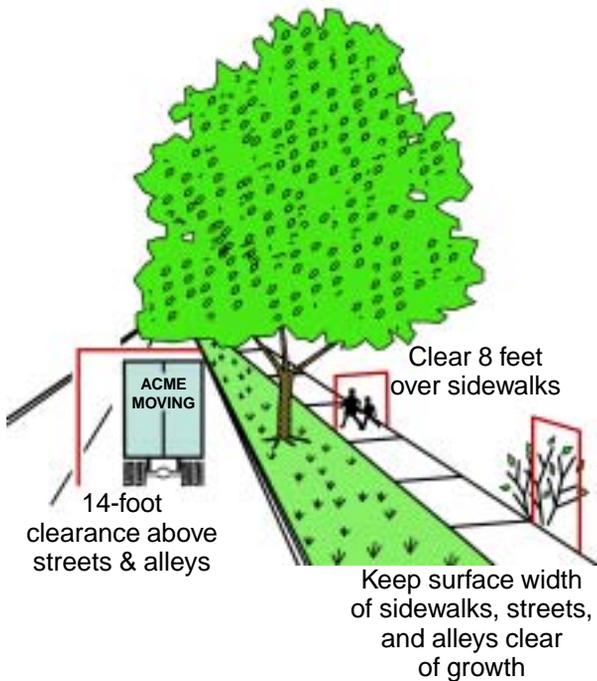


Public Right-of-Way CLEARANCE

Most towns and cities require all types of vegetation to be kept out of streets, sidewalks, and alleys. Trees with low or intruding limbs into streets, alleys, and sidewalks can injure pedestrians, damage vehicles, and be damaged from limb breakage. Sight visibility obstructions caused by vegetation are a serious safety threat for motorists and pedestrians at corner properties. Check local ordinances for restrictions in your community.



BASIC TREE CARE FOR WYOMING



PREPARED BY

CHEYENNE URBAN FORESTRY

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FUNDED BY

WYOMING STATE FORESTRY

For further assistance please contact the tree care professionals below:



LAWN CARE EQUIPMENT DAMAGE



Mower and weed whip damage to the base of the trunk is one of the most common causes of young tree death. Do not allow mowers, weed whips, or any other type of equipment to touch the tree trunk. The bark is fragile on young trees. Any type of bark wound can allow an entry-way for disease, decay, and insect problems. Sometimes trees survive mower damage to the trunk, but tree wounds do not heal. Wounds may be sealed over by new growth, but the wound is still there, most likely providing a point of decay.



TREE STAKING



Photo by: Edward F. Gilman,
Professor, Environmental
Horticulture Dept., IFAS
University of Florida

Incorrect

Avoid staking B&B trees if possible. Stake containerized and bare root trees for at least a year. Allow trunk movement when staking to benefit root and trunk development. The intent of staking should be to keep the tree from being blown over. Use one or two stakes to secure string or wire to a canvas strap going around the trunk. Do not use wire, wire in a hose, or any thin or hard material around the tree trunk.



Correct Staking



TREE AND SHRUB PLANTING

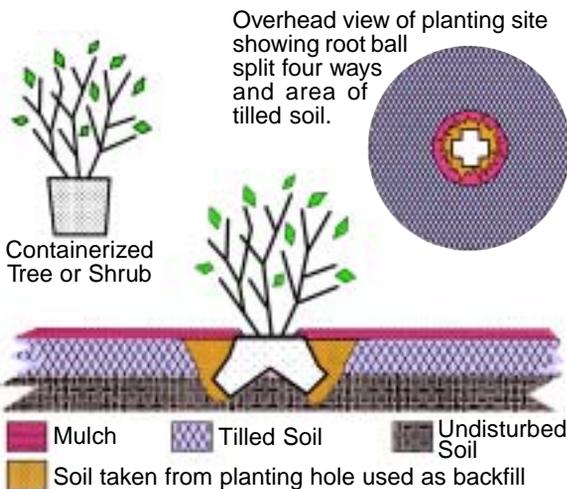
Locate trees away from sidewalks, streets, driveways, buildings, and utilities above and below ground. Proper distances should be determined by the expected mature size of the tree.

Remove all string, wire, burlap, and container material from around the root ball, the tree's trunk, and limbs after putting it in the planting hole.

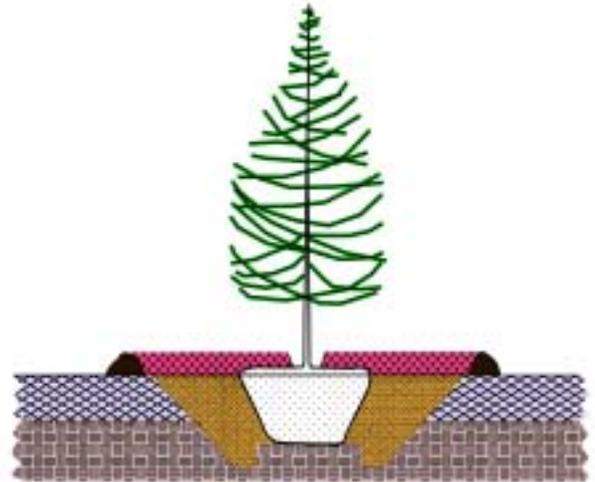
The location where the roots are growing out of the trunk is the root crown. Plant the tree with the root crown at ground level or just above, to allow for settling.

Prepare a planting site by spading or rototilling an area five times the diameter of the root ball. Mix organic soil into the entire planting site.

Containerized Trees & Shrubs



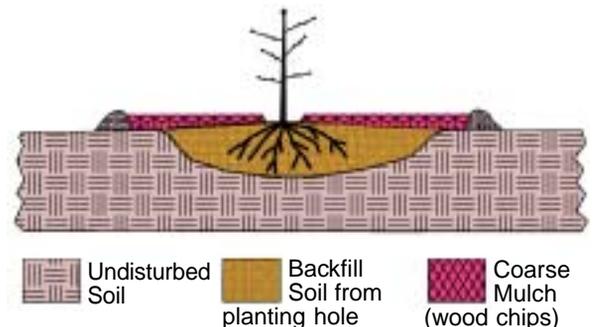
Balled and Burlapped (B&B)



- Undisturbed soil. Set root ball on solid soil.
- Till area 5 times root ball diameter and to a depth of 8 inches. Mix with organic soil if desired.
- Use same soil from hole as backfill around root ball.
- Loose layer of mulch 3 inches deep. Keep mulch 3 inches away from tree trunk.
- Soil watering ring, if desired.

Bare Root Tree Planting

Dig a hole to match the root depth & spread.



WATER TREES YEAR-ROUND

Minimum Water Amounts: Apply 10 gallons of water for each 1-inch of trunk diameter. A 3-inch trunk diameter = 30 gallons of water.

Check Soil Moisture: Dig down in the soil to a depth of 4 to 6 inches at the drip line of the tree. Squeeze a clump of soil in your hand from that depth. If the soil holds together in a ball or it leaves moisture on your hand, then the soil is wet enough and no watering is needed. Or, if you can easily push a screwdriver into the soil to a depth of 6 to 8 inches, then the soil is probably wet enough.

Minimum Watering Frequency: Check the soil moisture when temperatures are above 80° F and when dry or windy conditions exist. You may need to water once every 5 to 7 days. With lower temperatures or less wind, check soil moisture and water once every 7 to 14 days. Trees usually do well with an infrequent but longer duration watering schedule.



Drip Line



Evergreens, such as pine, spruce, fir, and juniper, require water in the winter, at least once a month. Water on a warm day. Apply water to the ground around the tree, or use a deep root watering needle. All trees, shrubs, and grass need *moist* soil year-round to maintain live roots. Trees in lawn areas must compete with grass roots for water. Grass uses most surface applied water leaving little for the tree. Using a deep root watering needle attached to a garden hose is an important technique for a tree to thrive. Deep root water to a depth of 8 inches on both the inside and outside of the drip line.

Mulching

Use a coarse texture mulch; wood chips, bark chips or fist sized rocks. Porous landscape fabric is also a mulch. One purpose of mulch is to reduce soil surface exposure to wind and sunlight, which allows longer retention of soil water. Another mulch benefit is to moderate soil temperature extremes, prolonging warmer soil temperatures into fall, which allows for extended root growth. Mulch also acts as a boundary between the fragile tree bark on young trees and lawn care equipment. Large sized organic mulch can slowly decompose providing nutrients to the soil. Mulch reduces the compaction of soil around the tree. Compacted soil around tree roots causes root death and tree decline or death. Keep all types of mulch from touching the tree trunk.

