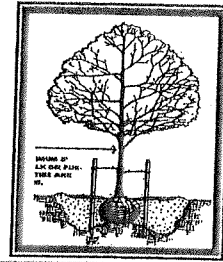


4.3 Tree Planting



The following are recommendations for proper tree planting. A Street Tree Planting Detail is enclosed with this section to distribute to contractors, landscape architects, and citizens.

1. Plant (2 in.) caliper trees or larger.

Trees of this size are less likely to be vandalized and provide a reasonable amount of improvement, shade, screening, and beautification. Smaller trees usually do not have a well-developed crown that is high enough for necessary clearance.

2. All trees shall conform to most recent ANSI 260.1 American Standard for Nursery Stock. First limbs shall be (5 ft.) above ground or higher.

- See the latest American National Standards for Nursery Stock
- See Selecting Trees – A Guide to Purchasing Quality Trees as a Wise Investment.

3. Excavate hole to height of rootball and (3) times width of rootball as shown. In heavily compacted ground, loosen all soil 5' from the planting pit, 18" deep. In poor soils amend entire rootway to 24" deep. Guarantee positive drainage from pit. Slightly mound in heavy clay soils. Tamp bottom of pit under rootball thoroughly to keep tree from settling. Set tree a minimum 4' from sidewalk or center between curb and side.

If no drainage is possible in the pit, install circle of perforated pipe in bottom of planting pit and connect to storm drain.

4. **Place root barrier flush against curb and/or sidewalk a minimum 6 feet in both directions if tree list, specifications or arborist calls for it.**

Tree species, width of planting area, and type of soils are all important factors to consider in requiring root barriers.

5. **Do not damage balled and burlap rootballs when planting. Remove all wire, string, and burlap from top and sides of ball only after placing in hole. Cut and spread roots to eliminate root circling for container stock. Completely remove all fabric from growbag trees.**
6. **Set tree straight and rootball on solid ground. Top of rootball must remain at or slightly above finished grad.**
7. **Backfill hole half full with native soil and no amendments. Tamp soil to stabilize rootball. Finish backfilling and tamp again.**
8. **Form water dam with soil around planting site to hold water for deeper soaking at least 2' from trunk**

Water must penetrate and saturate the rootball to maintain tree and initiate new root growth.
9. **Place Osmocote Plus 15-9-12 slow release fertilizer or similar at manufacturers recommended rate evenly over the soil of the planting pit.**

A slow release fertilizer provides nutrients over a longer period of time and reduces nutrient runoff.
10. **Cover minimum 2' radius minimum area with (3 in.) composted medium/coarse bark mulch. Pull mulch (3 in.) away from trunk.**

Mulch helps retain rootball moisture and allows better infiltration during the next waterings.

- 11. Water immediately and thoroughly, twice per week during the first month, then once per week through the remainder of the dry season. Water a minimum of once per month during the second summer season.**

After proper tree selecting and installation, there is no more critical act than watering your tree.

- 12. Stake trees outside rootball and parallel to street. Use (2' x 6') treated lodgepole pine tree stakes. Use (1 in.) heavy chainlock tree ties or similar. Remove after (1) year.**

Enclosure – A Planting Detail with these specifications is enclosed.

4.3.2 Tree Planting Space and Root Barriers

Planting Space Width

Planting trees in planting widths narrower than four feet is generally not recommended. However, when no alternative is possible, consult the Arborist for planting and species recommendations. Narrow planting widths severely limit the health and longevity of street tree plantings.

Root Barriers

Use of root barriers may be recommended depending on tree species, soil types, width of planting strip, and thickness of sidewalk and curb. Root barriers do not guarantee protection from hard surface damage, but have been shown to delay lifting from roots for many years when properly installed.

Root Barrier Installation

Root barrier installation is most effective and beneficial when installed along the edge of a sidewalk and/or curb on either side of the tree to allow the tree roots some growing room before roots contact the root barrier. Placing the root barrier around the root ball at planting time severely restricts the growth of the tree. The tree may not become anchored and stable especially if there is poor impervious soil below the root barrier. Root barrier typically comes in 12", 18" and 24" depths. Size to install usually depends on tree species, soils and distance between tree and barrier.