

Conservation Corner - Tree Care

Trees are a valuable resource for

our community. Trees pro

vide shade which cools our buildings, paved surfaces, lawns, and people. They

provide visual appeal to our neighborhoods and

downtown, and help connect us to our natural environment. They can be a source

of food for people, as well as wildlife habitat. They can

serve as elements for recreation and as visual barriers to screen unsightly areas. Trees clean the air, provide

oxygen, and serve a valuable role in carbon sequestration. We must all take a role in planting and caring for

the trees in our community, for the benefit they provide to our town.

Trees are a cost effective, low maintenance, and attractive addition to our landscapes. The biggest key to success is to research the trees on your property and those

you are considering to plant. Be sure to choose trees that are native to this area, so they will have the greatest

chance of survival and growing well; this will also reduce your long term maintenance needs.

When planting trees:

• Consider the size of the tree and space it a reasonable distance from buildings, utility lines, driveways, sidewalks, roads, and other trees to ensure the branches and roots do not become

maintenance problems later.

• Dig a wide hole to plant the tree to loosen soil and give roots room.

• Do not dig the hole deeper than the root ball.

• On root balls always remove cages, twine, and burlap.

• Fertilizer and other additives are not necessary.

• Water absorbing crystals can aid in retaining moisture in the soil during drier periods.

Mulching trees has many benefits beyond the aesthetic appeal.

- Inhibits growth of weeds. .

- Provides a barrier to reduce damage from lawnmowers and other equipment.

- Conserves moisture in the soil.

- Removes competition for rain by turf or other plants, allowing more moisture to get to the roots.

- Helps maintain the soil temperature.

- Mulch up to four inches deep.

- Do not place mulch against the bark. A mulch volcano is incorrect and can lead to tree health problems. Pull mulch away from the trunk.

Pruning trees may be done when needed for safety of people or property, to remove disease or insect infestation, to stimulate fruit production, or for aesthetic appeal.

- Do not top trees or over prune. This causes significant stress to the tree.

- Do not prune in the summer. Tree branches and leaves protect the tree, conserve its moisture, and the tree shades itself.

- Only prune select branches.

- Do not prune branches near utility lines, instead contact the utility.

- Prune safely or contact a professional service.

For more tips visit www.arborday.org. Consider adding a fruit tree to your property to not only add value to your

property, but food for your family and neighbors: Properly caring for trees will improve our environment and our community. Thank you for your concern for trees and

their positive impact on our community.

