

TREE CARE INFORMATIONAL FLYER SERIES

TREE CARE



What Can You Do?

Good tree health is achieved generally through common sense, especially in summer.

Water the tree.

Water slowly and deeply. Tree roots get most of their moisture from the small pit that has been cut into the sidewalk. It's best to let water trickle very slowly into the pit, so that it does not create a puddle or run onto the sidewalk. Use a watering bucket or bubble hose. If using a hose, water at least for an hour.

Clean up the tree pit.

Remove weeds, grass and trash regularly. Gently loosen the soil to allow more water and oxygen to penetrate through the top three inches of soil. This is where most of the root hairs are.

Protect from animals.

Keep dogs and cats from relieving themselves in the tree pit. Dog and cat urine and feces are very alkaline (base) and can damage roots. Dog feces also attract insects, rodents and other dogs.

Remove Stakes and Wires

Remove stakes and wires from young trees after one year. Tight wires are the leading killers of young trees.

Mulch your Tree

Using woodchips, licorice root, leaf mold or compost, create a ring 2-3" high and as wide as the drip line, if possible. Remember not to pile up mulch against the trunk. This practice invites pests and disease.

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Protect your tree

Install tree pit guards, posts or other obstacles to keep tree from being damaged by car doors, bicycles, dogs, etc.

Do Not

Do not feed your newly planted tree or fertilize during a drought. Forcing a water stressed tree to grow will only cause further stress. Also, granular chemical fertilizer is a salt that could dehydrate the tree. Regular mulching with compost not only helps to protect the tree roots from drought by limiting evaporation, it also releases organic nutrients at a rate that is not causing your tree to be stressed.

Do Not

Do not put trash bags or cans out around the tree. Trash compacts soil and leaks potentially toxic and hazardous substances into the soil.

Do Not

Do not prune heavily except to remove dead, diseased or damaged branches. Removing more than one third of healthy branches will substantially weaken your tree. Never “top” your tree. This is a common practice in many communities but, in fact, invites disease by weakening the tree, eliminating vital habitat for birds and creating an unsightly, unnatural look for the tree.

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TREE PIT CARE



Remove weeds, trash, basal shoots, and suckers from tree pit and tree.

Cultivate soil gently and periodically.

Keep the tree pit level, no more than 1 or 2 inches below the sidewalk edge. This will prevent water from spilling out and people from falling in.

Mulch the pit with 3-4 inches of organic mulch such as leaf mold, licorice root, woodchips or compost. Place mulch at least 6 inches from the tree trunk. This prevents moisture and insects from accumulating around the bark.

Protect the bark which is the most important part of a tree's protection.

Water slowly and deeply with 5 to 8 gallons each soaking.

DO NOT compact the soil by walking on it. Pile bags around the tree on trash day. Allow animals to urinate in the tree pit. Park motorcycles, bicycles or cars in the tree pit. Change oil anywhere near the tree pit.

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WEBSITES ABOUT TREES



www.libertynet.org/phs

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) is a not for profit membership organization founded in 1827, motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

<http://ag.arizona.edu/~bradley/acga/acga.htm>

The American Community Gardening Association (ACGA) homepage points to many websites dealing with urban gardening and community stewardship.

www.amfor.org

American Forests is the nation's oldest non profit citizen conservation organization, founded in 1875. Through programs such as Global ReLeaf, and publications such as the National Historic tree Register, American Forests advocates the benefits of rural and urban trees, good science, and sound policy.

www.arborday.org

National Arbor Day Foundation helps to promote tree care and conservation and to educate people on tree issues, offering nine such nationally recognized programs such as tree City USA that promote responsible tree stewardship in communities, on farms and open space, and in the rain forests.

www.ag.uiuc.edu/~ISA

International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), a professional organization for arborists, fosters a better understanding of trees and tree care through research and education.

www.nascc.org/green.html

The National Association of Service and Conservation Corp (NASCC). This site includes a "Tools for Community Greening" page with links to valuable information on street tree care and community gardening.

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TREE SOURCES AND RESOURCES



Company Farm Nursery
936 Shenkel Rd.
Pottstown
610-326-7444

F&H Tree Farms, Inc.
Collegeville
610-489-2346

Groth Tree Farm
384 Township Line Rd.
Douglassville
610-327-4328

Hopewell Nursery
7829 Boyertown Pike
Boyertown
610-689-9516

Varners Tree Farm
746 S. Trappe Rd.
Collegeville
610-489-8878

This list is not inclusive of all local nurseries. Check your local Yellow Pages for a complete listing.

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LOCAL TREE CARE PROFESSIONALS



ABC Tree Removal

Gilbertsville
610-367-5986

Boyertown/Tri County Tree Service

610-367-4020

Buckwalter Landscaping Service

610-587-6958

Davey Tree Expert Co.

Gilbertsville
610-473-0300

Forever Young Landscaping and Contracting

610-287-8987

Four Seasons Lawn and Tree Service

610-326-9081

Landscape Contractor's Inc.

503 Buchert Road
610-705-8855

Scheifley's Tree Service

610-689-8936

This list of local professionals is not inclusive. For a more complete listing, please check your local Yellow Pages. This list should in no way be construed as a promotion of services. Always research your selections to make sure that you are getting the right professional for the service you require.