

Tree Talk



Late Winter 2011 HOA

A PARTNERSHIP WORKING TOWARD
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FORESTS

Workshops Announced

Two workshops have been planned for Friday, March 11th. The workshops are designed for anyone who supervises or performs any kind of landscape maintenance activities.

The morning topic will be insects and diseases. John Schwandt, Pathologist for the Forest Service will cover native species diseases as well as information on how to recognize hazard situations in large native trees. Tom Eckburg, Forest Entomologist with the Idaho Department of Lands, will provide information about insect pests of native trees. Mike Bauer, Horticulturist with the University of Idaho Extension, will round out the morning with information on insects and diseases that we may soon see on the rise in our area, including such introduced pests as the Emerald Ash Borer.

Tree planting will be the topic of the afternoon workshop. Trees that are planted correctly have a much better chance of growing to maturity and providing positive environmental benefits. Chris Boza, Urban Forester for Hayden, will share what some "post-mortems" have revealed about tree planting problems. Jeff Perry, Arborist for the City of Spokane, will provide examples of good and bad stock from the roots to the crown and results of proper and improper planting. We will cap off the afternoon with tree planting demonstrations of three types of tree stock: container, balled & burlap, and bare root.

A workshop brochure and registration form is included with this newsletter mailing. Registration information is also available on our website: www.communitycanopy.org

Tree Staking

By Chris Boza, Community Forester for the City of Hayden

To Stake, or Not to Stake: That is the question!

Please pardon my play on Shakespeare's words in Act III, Scene I of Hamlet. However, once your tree is planted properly, that *is* the question.

Tree staking is only a temporary measure to support a tree after transplanting, and only used if it is needed. When a bare root or balled and burlap tree is transplanted, a large portion of its root system is left behind. Temporary staking can be used to provide extra support while the root system is reestablished. Planted properly with the root ball expanded, a containerized tree may not need to be staked.

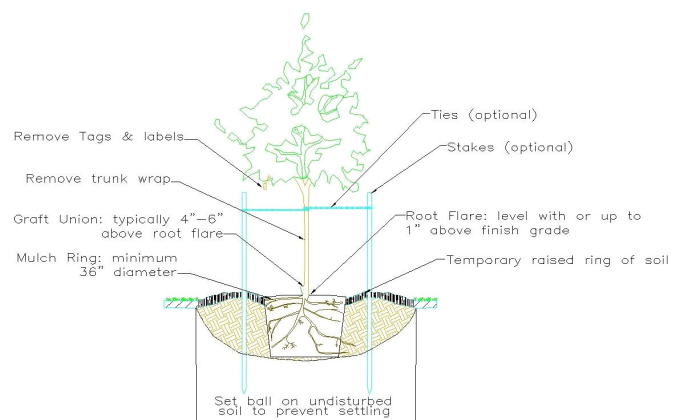
So how do you determine if staking is truly needed? After the tree is planted, gently move the tree to see if the soil can support the tree. Soil settled with water will encapsulate the roots, creating a bond with the roots. If the soil does not move, then staking probably will not be needed. If the soil does move, stakes should be used.

If the site is exposed to strong winds, staking should be used. The stakes will provide the added support needed until the tree establishes a new root system.

Make sure the tree can move in the wind any time staking is used. Movement in the trunk spurs growth in both the root system and trunk. Trees tied too tightly do not develop good root systems or trunk taper and are subject to failure.

Once a tree is staked, don't forget to remove the stakes! Staking should remain in place for no longer than a year. If a tree cannot support itself after a year, check the root system; especially containerized trees. Poor root establishment may indicate soil problems or circling roots. Replanting may be necessary.

To stake: Use two stakes set parallel to the prevailing wind and outside the root ball. Ties are wide (minimum 1"), flexible, belt-like material. Ties should be tight enough to support the tree while allowing it to sway.



What's New?

Landscape of Excellence Awards

Through "Landscape of Excellence" awards, Community Canopy gives public recognition to commercial, retail, church and subdivision 'commons' properties that have done an excellent job of landscaping and tree stewardship. If you would like to nominate a business, church or subdivision landscape area that has exemplified quality landscaping, please contact your Community Canopy representative.

Correcting Errors

Our apologies for errors in the fall *Tree Talk* article "Tree Pests" regarding chemicals to control Spruce Gall Adelgid. Our information turned out to be out-of-date and in error. The listed products were Dursban, Lorsban, Endosulfan and Thiodan.

Distribution of Chlorpyrifos products (brand names Dursban & Lorsban) labeled for residential use, including ornamental trees, ceased on Dec. 31, 2001. They are still used for some agricultural applications as Restricted Use Pesticides.

Endosulfan products (brand names Endosulfan, Thiodan) are classified as Restricted Use Pesticides and are labeled for agricultural use for commercially grown trees (i.e. nurseries). They are not labeled for residential use. They are also in a "phase out", with registered use on commercially grown ornamental trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants ceasing July 31, 2012.

A revised fall 2010 *Tree Talk* with updated control information can be found on our web site.

Contact Community Canopy at:

Coeur d'Alene 208/769-2266
Post Falls 208/292-2315
Hayden 208/772-4411
Spokane 509/363-5495
Spokane County Conservation
Dist. 509/535-7274

Web Page: www.communitycanopy.org
Write: c/o Urban Forestry, City of Cd'A
710 E. Mullan Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814



Upcoming Events

February 19—VIP Training; 9:00—Noon

Spokane County Conservation District Office (210 N. Havana)

March 11 — Tree Care Workshops "Insects & Diseases" and "Planting for Success"
Q'emiln Park in Post Falls

Homeowner Tree Care Seminars at Hayden Library:

March 5th—Tree Selection

March 12th—Tree Planting

March 19th—Tree Maintenance

March 26th—Irrigation

Arbor Day Dates:

April 13 — Washington's Arbor Day

April 29—Idaho's Arbor Day (The last Friday in April is also the National Arbor Day date)

April 30—Spokane's Arbor Day celebration at Finch Arboretum 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

April 30—Coeur d'Alene's Arbor Day Celebration; info at cdaid.org

Volunteers In Pruning

The Volunteers in Pruning (VIP) program is off to a great start! Since the launch of this program in October 2009, trained volunteers have assisted in pruning nearly 400 public trees in Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls and Hayden. Some of the locations where trees have been pruned include Coeur d'Alene's public library, Sunshine Meadows Park and Riverview Cemetery. In Post Falls volunteers pruned trees in the Fieldstone subdivision and in Hayden trees along Government Way, Dempsey Drive and in Broadmoore Park were pruned.

The purpose of this program is to prune young trees for structure and to head off future problems that can lead to major pruning, potential hazards, or tree failure as trees become older. VIPs are provided with in-depth training, proper tools and safety equipment. They generally work as a team.

Individuals 16 years of age or older can participate in the VIP program. Training sessions generally take place in the fall and winter since it is best to prune when trees are dormant. For more information or to sign up for a future VIP training session, contact the Community Canopy representative in your area. Training is free in exchange for putting in volunteer hours to prune public trees.

Landscape Help Available to Churches & HOAs

The Community Canopy Program would like to help churches and Homeowners Associations (HOA) in their efforts to spruce up their grounds by offering an arborist or trained individual to attend your church or HOA clean-up efforts, or a meeting of board members or trustees. We can provide information we are sure you'll find helpful in maintaining your grounds

A landscape investment, whether large or modest, enhances the public face your church or HOA presents to the community. Trees are a significant part of most landscapes. Community Canopy's aim is to improve tree care so that young trees grow to healthy maturity and provide maximum environmental and visual benefits. To this end, our city arborists are willing to provide what help and advice we can. We also have a cooperative agreement with the Extension Master Gardeners, who also volunteer time to provide valuable tree and landscape care information.

To schedule time with an Arborist or Master Gardener, contact your community's Community Canopy contact—listed to the left.