



## LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

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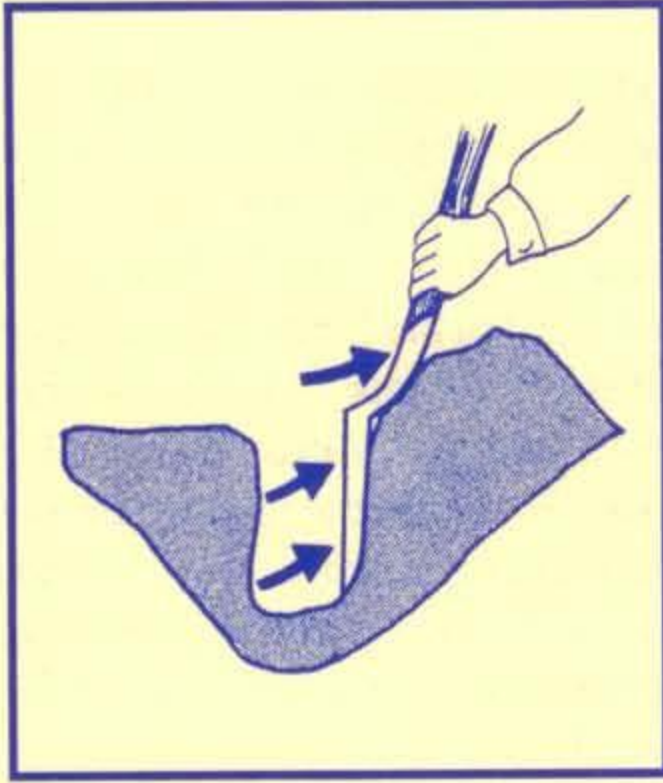
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# PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHADE TREES

PREPARING THE PLANTING SITE AND PLANTING THE TREE

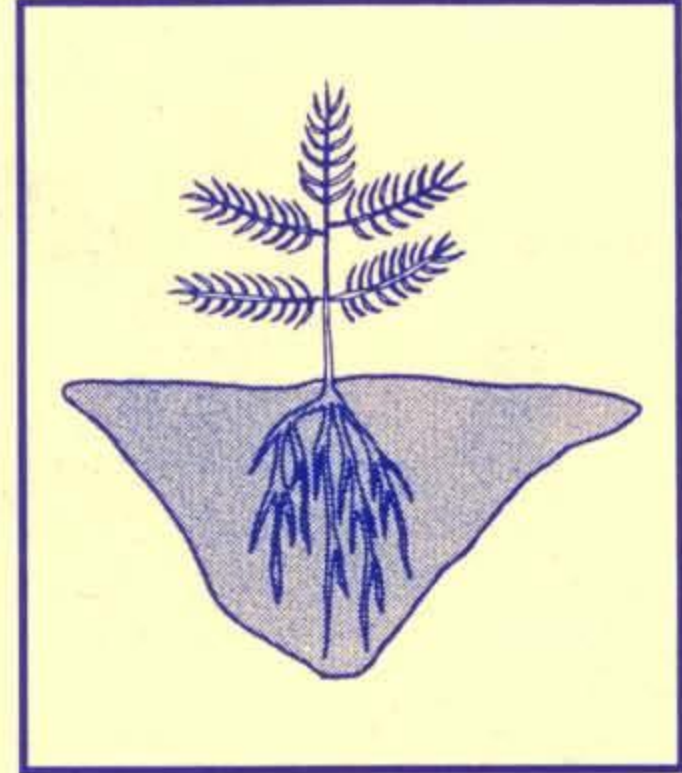
Note No. 3



Dig a hole, wider than seems necessary, so the roots can spread without crowding. Remove any grass within a three-foot circular area.



Plant the tree the same depth as it stood in the nursery without crowding the roots. Partially fill hole and pack the soil firmly around lower roots. **Do not add soil amendments, especially peat or bark.**



Shove in the remaining soil and pack firmly with heel. Water the tree thoroughly so that all air pockets are removed (when bubbling stops.)

## CARE AFTER PLANTING

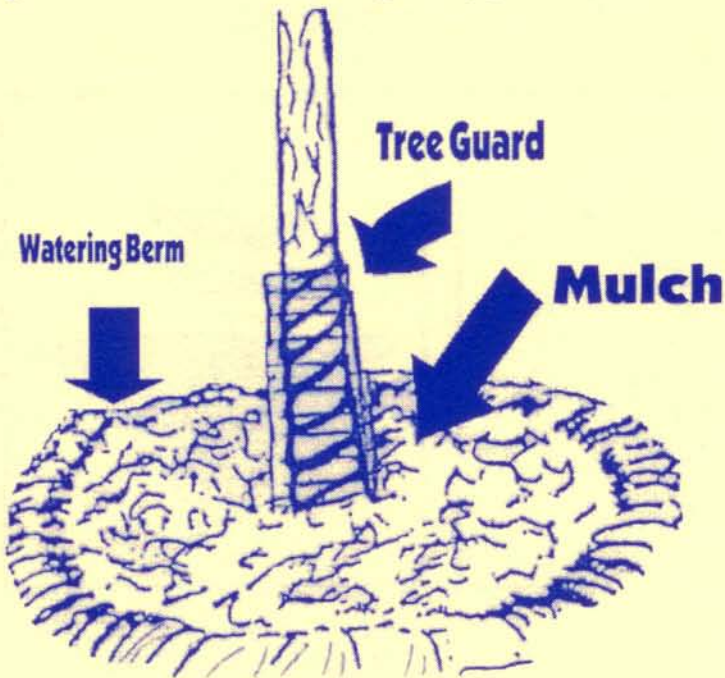
1. **STAKE THE TREE** using a 2 x 2 placed next to the tree with a piece of loosely tied twine. This will protect the tree from wind damage and mower damage. Stake should remain in place until the tree is well established (2 years).
2. Cover the planting area with mulch (such as pine bark, leaves, pine straw or compost) to control grass and to conserve moisture.
3. Water the tree thoroughly once a week when there is no rainfall.
4. Prevent mechanical damage, especially from mowers.

## PLACES TO AVOID WHEN PLANTING TREES

1. Under power or telephone lines (plant trees at least 50 feet from overhead lines).
2. Close to a house or building - may damage siding, clog gutters or loosen roofing.
3. Close to sidewalks (driveways) - roots may cause them to lift and break. Allow a minimum of 10 feet from these objects.
4. Close to sewer lines - shallow rooted trees will often clog sewers, causing damage and costly repairs.
5. Close to home foundations - allow a minimum of 30 feet from foundations.

## TRUNK PROTECTION

Careless use of lawnmowers, string trimmers and other lawn equipment can damage the tender bark tissue of young trees. Repeated damage of this type can slow down tree growth and may cause failure or death of the tree. Hand weeding or using an appropriate contact herbicide are good alternatives to mechanical weeding. Mulch can be used around trees to suppress weed and grass growth. Mechanical tree guards placed around trunks can temporarily protect young trees from damage.



## MULCHING

Placing mulch around newly planted trees is highly beneficial. A layer of 4"-6" of wood chips, pinestraw or barkchips provides many benefits. Cover the entire planting hole out 3 feet or more away from the trunk. Do not place mulch against the tree trunk. Mulch not only suppresses weed and grass growth but also insulates the soil from extreme temperature and conserves moisture during dry spells. Woodchips will also decompose providing natural fertilization. Mulch should be replenished yearly.

## WATERING

Water is most likely to be the limiting factor in the survival and growth of newly planted trees. During the first growing season after planting trees should be watered thoroughly once a week if no significant rain occurs. Trees should receive the equivalent of 1 inch of rain per week, but do not over water. The soil should be allowed to dry out somewhat between waterings. If there is no water source near by, a 5-gallon bucket of water once a week will keep a tree alive during dry spells. Build a watering berm around the planting hole to direct the water down into the planting hole.

## OTHER URBAN FORESTRY NOTES AVAILABLE

- Note No. 1 "Guidelines for Fertilizing Yard Trees"
- Note No. 2 "Pruning Shade Trees"
- Note No. 3 "Planting Instructions for Shade Trees"
- Note No. 4 "Landscaping the Home for Energy Conservation"
- Note No. 5 "Planting Trees During Construction"
- Note No. 6 "Additional Tips for Successful Shade Trees"

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