

# Homeowners Urged to Plant Right Tree in Right Place

Plan now to plant a tree or two this spring. You and your family, you and your community, you and your state will be the long time beneficiaries of the beauty of the trees that you plant this spring.

Tree-shaded lawn and patio are delightful places to enjoy pleasant hours with the family and friends. Have you ever thought, "Who planted the trees that provide the shaded areas that I enjoy?" Will there be similar places for my children and grandchildren to enjoy?

The answers to both of these questions depend on you. There can be life-long beauty in your community if you plant trees today.

Tree-shaded streets are beautiful to see and they make a city, town, or shopping place a delightful place. Who planted the trees in these areas? The city? The developer? Maybe!

Regardless of who planted them, however, it did take someone with vision to initiate an active program. Perhaps you should start a neighborhood program to plant trees along the city streets. Yes, you can even generate the action needed to have trees planted in the asphalt deserts that surround some shopping centers.

If you plant, be sure to plant the right tree in the right place. The choice of the tree is very important. Plant trees to accomplish an objective. If the objective is shade, plant trees that will grow into large massive giants of shade.

But, don't plant them in a space that will only support a dwarf, and don't plant large shade trees where they will soon grow into electric or telephone wires. If trees must be planted close to overhead wires, select a small tree type.

When planting be sure to plant a tree that has a long life expectancy and is of good sound structure. Fast growing trees, like the silver maple, generally should not be planted in fine landscapes.

Trees grow best in a good garden soil. Avoid clay sites if possible. If trees must be planted in clay soils be sure to provide good drainage. Otherwise, the roots may suffocate from the lack of air. If there is a long wet period or if the tree is overwatered.

In most soils, little or no fertilizer need be applied at planting time. As the trees get older, those in most good soils need to be fertilized only occasionally with a good, standard fertilizer that contains nitrogen and potassium.

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### Turf, Trees Need Added Nutrients

Don't forget the shade trees when fertilizing your yard this spring. Many home owners fail to realize that little of the fertilizer applied on the lawn reaches the roots of shade trees. The turf receives most of these nutrients before they can reach the tree roots.

Use one pound of well-balanced fertilizer (10-10-10) for each one inch of trunk diameter four feet above the ground. Older trees more than six inches in diameter should get three pounds per inch of diameter. However, the amount of fertilizer should be decreased accordingly when part of the soil is covered by sidewalks.

Soak the soil thoroughly under the tree for two hours before fertilizing. Make imaginary circles surrounding the tree two feet apart until the circles extend just beyond the spread of the branches of the tree.

With a heavy bar, make holes about 24 inches apart in each of the circles. The holes should be about 18 inches deep. Using a small frozen fruit juice can, put about one-half can of fertilizer in each hole. Keep adding fertilizer until it is used up and evenly divided. Water again and leave the holes open to allow air to penetrate down to the roots after fertilizing.

A specially designed hollow rod, which can be attached to the end of a garden hose, can be used instead of the bar for making the holes. It penetrates easily and uses special fertilizer cartridges which are dissolved by the water flowing through the hose.

Home owners should let the local garden store, nursery or landscape nurseryman help in selecting the proper fertilizer. Many tree experts and landscape nurserymen also have specialized machinery to quickly complete the tree fertilization if you are not the "do-it-yourself" type.

### Nurseryman Guilty in Tree Charge

A Troy tree nurseryman was convicted of carrying uninspected nursery stock recently and fined \$20 plus \$5 costs in justice court in Lapeer.

In addition to the fine, Theodore Wreeman of Woody Acres Nursery agreed to remove five insect-infested trees which were planted March 8 on a Bloomfield Hills property. Wreeman pleaded guilty before Justice C. L. Burton, Lapeer, on March 15.

Dale A. Butler, plant specialist with the Michigan Department of Agriculture, made the investigation leading to Wreeman's conviction. According to Butler's report, 20 trees were removed from land near Dryden, without the necessary inspection for insects and diseases.

Of the 20 large spruce, pine and maple trees planted by Wreeman, five were infected with a serious plant pest, the spruce gall aphid. According to the Michigan Department of Agriculture's Plant Industry Division, responsible for enforcing nursery laws, the infection could have caused the new owner and neighboring property owners considerable trouble in years to come.

The infected trees are being removed and replaced at considerable added expense to the convicted nurseryman.

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