



ROMFORD BRICK — A realistic brick design is a new addition to Armstrong's Craftline Collection. The basic but popular pattern is included in the new tile series.

Suburban Gardener

You're Going To Live With Them A Long Time

By BETTY FRANKEL
Arbor Week is an ideal time to plant trees, but how does the homeowner decide which trees to plant?

There are hundreds of species from which to choose and an alphabetical listing in a catalog might run the gamut from Acer palmatum (English) or hedge maple, a small tree to Zelkova sericea (Japanese zelkova, a large tree suggested as a substitute for the American elm).

Trees should be chosen with care because the tree you plant will be living with for a long time. It will become an intimate part of your life. Perhaps you will greet your as you go in and out your front door, or overlook the children as they play on the back patio, or perhaps it will face you every time you sit down at the dinner table.

THE FIRST thing to consider is size. How big a tree do you have space for? The large shade trees, such as maples, oaks, ash, lindens are handsome and dramatic, reaching over 100 feet tall and with a branch spread that can reach 50 feet. But there are also small trees, crabapples and hawthorns that are never over 10 or 15 feet in height, and there are many kinds that are less than 30 feet at full height.

Next consider the growing conditions. Choose a tree that likes the kind of soil you have — the acidity, moisture, drainage, and fertility. Also choose one that fits the sun and wind conditions.

Finally, after mature size and growing conditions have

been met, you can choose special decorative features such as color and texture of foliage, bark color, and fruit.

DESIRABLE large shade trees: sugar maple, moraine larch, tulip tree.

Shade trees to plant along a city street: Norway maple, hawthorn, sweet gum, London plane, European linden, pin oak.

Small trees — under 30 feet: English maple, flowering dogwood, hawthorn, silver bell, golden rain, magnolia, Mountain ash, European linden, scholar tree.

Trees that grow in wet soil: red maple, yellow birch, gray birch, sweet gum, sour grape, white birch, swamp white oak, swamp white oak, American linden, willows.

Trees that withstand dry, poor soils: English maple, amur maple, alnus, European white birch, gray birch, aspens, golden rain, sour cherry, black cherry, black locust, scarlet oak.

Small trees that will grow in shade: flowering dogwood, redbud, pin cherry, amelanchier, vine maple, striped maple, mountain maple.

Trees seldom troubled by insects or diseases: larch, Katsura, Russian olive, Gingko, honey locust, silver birch, golden rain, sweet gum.

Trees that grow quickly: Silver maple, red maple, gray birch, white ash, honey locust, tulip tree, black cherry, pin oak, poplars, willows.

SMALL, YOUNG trees can often be moved bare rooted, but larger specimens should

be moved with a ball of earth around the roots. Never let the roots or earth ball dry out. Keep moist at all times. Plant the tree carefully at the same depth at which it had been growing. Use a large hole and fill in beneath and around the roots or ball with soil mixed with an amount of peat moss. Tamp and water to remove air pockets.

With either bare root or earth ball there is some loss of fine feeder roots. To compensate for root loss, the top should be pruned quite severely. This will help restore a balance between roots and top and help the tree become established more quickly.

A dose of quick acting liquid fertilizer will stimulate root growth and be beneficial.

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The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Wood chips and sawdust: Many readers have access to wood chips and sawdust but are afraid to use these materials as a mulch or in the home garden.

There is no reason why you cannot add wood chips or sawdust to your soil. They have no effect on soil acidity (as many believe) and they are toxic to plants, aside from the temporary shortage of nitrogen. You can offset the nitrogen shortage by adding any fertilizer with nitrogen in it. We use a liquid plant food (such as 23-19-7), drenched right over the mulched material. Or you can sprinkle it on a compost pile containing the wood wastes.

Chips and sawdust have a favorable effect on soil structure, lowering the clay and tightening up the sandy one. These materials are a big help in soil management, as is any organic item.

If you can get a truck load of leaves in fall, don't turn them down. Turn them into the garden. These materials improve tilth, help resist compaction and erosion, increase pore space, promote earthworm activity and hold moisture.

In tests, two or three times as many earthworms were found in the chip treatments, than under the control test. These items are useful as a mulch, and can be used at a rate of two inches thick around base of trees or shrubs.

Any wood waste, used in conjunction with extra fertilizer, turns clay and sand into a rich loamy soil for better plant growth. Don't worry about disease (such as Dutch Elm) from the chips, as it's unlikely that either insects or disease will be a problem.

EASTER LILY CARE: That lily you got for Easter can put on another show for you this summer. After the plants have finished blooming, set them out in a garden in a permanent spot. The lily will blossom each year. Some gardeners have good luck forcing the plant to bloom again.

The florist's hydrangeas can be set outdoors during the summer months. Since the buds are apt to winterkill, you'll either have to protect it in winter, or move the plant into the basement. Keep it slightly watered during the winter months, and then set it outdoors in spring, when it will bloom.

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