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### 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 turn the gamut from Acer campestre (English or hedge maple, a small tree) to Zelkova serrata (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 you for a long time. It will become an intimate part of your life. Perhaps it will greet you 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 tree, such as maples, oaks, ash, lindens are handsome and dramatic, reaching over 100 feet in height 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 flowers and fruit.

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

Shade trees to plant along a city street: Norway maple, hackberry, 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, Japanese scholar tree.

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

Trees that withstand dry, poor soils: English maple, amur maple, alanthus, 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, amelanther, vine maple, striped maple, mountain maple.

Trees seldom troubled by diseases or insects: alanthus, katsura, Russian olive, Ginkgo, honey locust, silver bell, 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 ample quantity 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.

### Garden Reminders

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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) nor are they 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 23-19-17), 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, loosening up a clay soil and tightening up a 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 ground! 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 no-chip tests. These items are useful as a mulch, and can be used at 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 extremely likely that either insects or disease will be a problem.

**EASTER LILY CARE:** That lily you got for Easter can put on another show for 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 indoors.

The florists' 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.

A reader writes: "We've always wanted to grow apricots but never knew which kind to get. Are they hard to grow?"

Answer: They take about the same requirements peaches do. Two new varieties include Moongold and Sungold. Both are hardy and will take 25 degrees below zero, and are ideal for home gardens. Moongold and Sungold are self-sterile, meaning one will not bear by itself. Plant one of each to insure proper pollination and fruit set.

Particulate contaminants in the air amount to 70,000 particles for each breath you take.

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