



What You Should Know About Trees

Lindon City Tree Planting guide

The Value Of Trees

*The cultivation of trees is the cultivation of the good,
the beautiful, and the ennobling in man.*

-J. Sterling Morton

"The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day." -U.S. Department of Agriculture

"Trees can boost the market value of your home by an average of 6 or 7 percent." -Dr. Lowell Ponte

"Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent." -Management Information Services/ICMA

"One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people." -U.S. Department of Agriculture

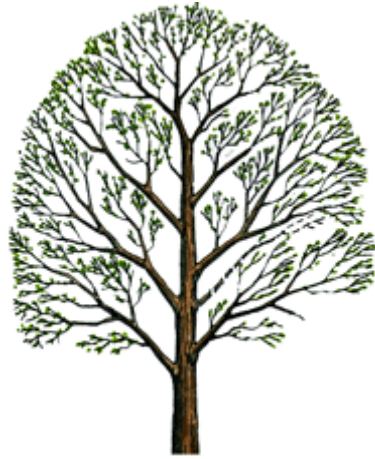
"There are about 60-to 200- million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO2 every year, and saving \$4 billion in energy costs." -National Wildlife Federation

"Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20 - 50 percent in energy used for heating." -USDA Forest Service

"Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism. Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly,

tenants stay longer, and space in a wooded setting is more valuable to sell or rent." -The National Arbor Day Foundation

"Shade from trees could save up to \$175 per year (per structure) in air conditioning costs." -Dr. Lowell Ponte



Tree Tips

#1: Don't Top Trees!

Never cut main branches back to stubs. Many people mistakenly “top” trees because they grow into utility wires, interfere with views or sunlight, or simply grow so large that they worry the landowner.

Unfortunately, the topping process is often self-defeating. Ugly, bushy, weakly attached limbs usually grow back higher than the original branches.

Proper pruning can remove excessive growth without the problems topping creates. In addition, many arborists say that topping is the worst thing you can do for the health of a tree. It starves the tree by drastically reducing its food-making ability and makes the tree more susceptible to insects and disease.

The appearance of a properly pruned tree is like a good haircut: hardly noticeable at first glance.

#2: Use The 1/3 and 1/4 Rules of Pruning

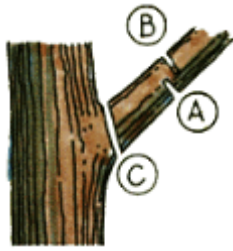
Never remove more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of a tree's crown in a season.

Where possible, try to encourage side branches that form angles that are $\frac{1}{3}$ off vertical (10:00 or 2:00 positions).

For most species, the tree should have a single trunk.

Ideally, main side branches should be at least $\frac{1}{3}$ smaller than the diameter of the trunk.

If removal of a main branch is necessary, cut it back to where it is attached to another large branch or the trunk. Do not truncate or leave a stub.



#3: How to Make a Pruning Cut

Large Limbs:

A: Make a partial cut from beneath.

B: Make a second cut from above several inches out and allow the limb to fall.

C: Complete the job with a final cut just outside the branch collar.

Small Branches:

Make a sharp clean cut, just beyond a lateral bud or other branch.



#4: The Value of Mulch

A tree's best friend, mulch insulates soil, retains moisture, keeps out weeds, prevents soil compaction, reduces lawnmower damage, and adds an aesthetic

touch to a yard or street. Remove any grass within the mulch area, and area from 3 to 10 feet in diameter, depending on tree size. Pour wood chips or bark pieces 2 to 4 inches within the circle, but not touching the trunk.

“To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as a people, we must have trees.”

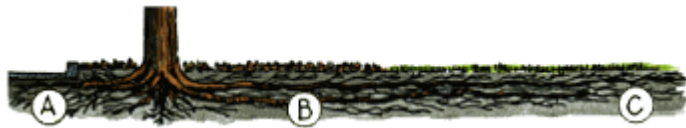
Theodore Roosevelt

#5: Where Roots Really Grow

A: Because roots need oxygen, they don't normally grow in the compacted oxygen-poor soil under paved streets.

B: The framework of major roots usually lies less than 8 to 12 inches below the surface.

C: Roots often grow outward to a diameter one to two times the height of the trees.



“The best friend on earth of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources of the earth.”

Frank Lloyd Wright

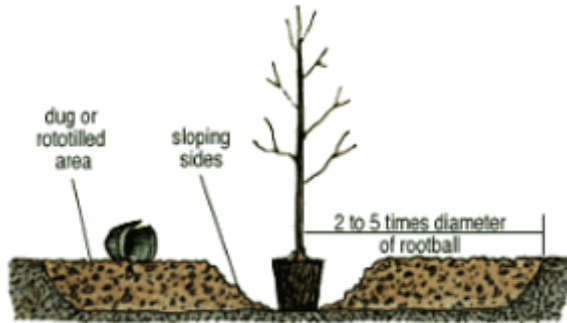


#6: Girdling Kills Trees

Girdling is any activity that injures the bark of a tree trunk and extends around much of the trunk's circumference.

Such injuries, often caused by lawnmowers and weed trimmers, destroy the tree's most vital membranes, the layers that conduct water and minerals from the roots to the leaves and return the food produced by the leaves to the rest of the tree.

#7: How to Plant a Containerized Tree



If a tree is planted correctly, it will grow twice as fast and live at least twice as long as one that is incorrectly planted. Ideally, dig or rototill an area one foot deep and approximately 5 times the diameter of the root ball. The prepared soil will encourage root growth beyond the root ball and results in a healthier tree.

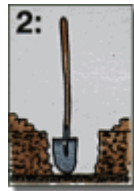
In transplanting, be sure to keep soil around the roots. Always handle your tree by the ball, not by the trunk or branches. Don't let the root ball dry out. Help prevent root girdling by vertically cutting any roots that show tendencies to circle the root ball. After placing the tree, pack soil firmly but not tightly around the root ball. Water the soil and place a protective 3-foot circle of mulch around the tree.

#8: How to Plant A Bare-Root Tree

It is best to plant bare-root trees immediately, in order to keep the fragile roots from drying out. If you can't plant because of weather or soil conditions, store the trees in a cool place and keep the roots moist.



1: Unpack tree and soak in water 3 to 6 hours. Do not plant with packing materials attached to roots, and do not allow roots to dry out.



2: Dig a hole, wider than seems necessary, so the roots can spread without crowding. Remove any grass within a three-foot circular area. To aid root growth, turn soil in an area up to 3 feet in diameter.



3: Plant the tree at the same depth it stood in the nursery, without crowding the roots. Partially fill the hole, firming the soil around the lower roots. Do not add soil amendments.



4: Shovel in the remaining soil. It should be firmly, but not tightly packed with your heel. Construct a water-holding basin around the tree. Give the tree plenty of water.



5: After the water has soaked in, place a 2-inch deep protective mulch area 3 feet in diameter around the base of the tree (but not touching the trunk).



6: Water the tree generously every week or 10 days during the first year.

#9: Your Street Trees May Be City Trees



Lindon city was recently designated as a, [Tree City USA](#), this is quite honor, one for which you can be proud.

The trees near the street (often between the sidewalk and street), are probably city-owned. The city has a program for planting and caring for these trees. You should support your city forestry program and encourage the city to continue to beautify your community by planting trees. Get into the act by planting trees in your own yard!

Respect local ordinances as to what trees can be planted, how to prune, etc. Encourage your town to fully fund a quality community forestry program.