Tree Care

Photos Sources: Vince Urbina, Keith Wood, SS & Donna Davis, CSFS
Other Sources: The Right Tree for the Right Place; the National Arbor Day Foundation, et al
Establishment Mulch

- Improves root development & tree vigor – reduces weed/grass competition for water/nutrients/actual root space
- Reduces moisture evaporation
- Moderates extreme surface soil temperatures
- Protects tree trunk from lawnmowers and weed whip injury
- 3-4 inches depth, 2-3 inches away from trunk

Source: Rocky Mtn Arborist Volume 44, Number 4
Establishment Mulch

Courtesy of ISA “Trees Are Good”
Establishment
Staking and Guying

Staking trees not always necessary
- less trunk taper
- smaller root system
- more subject to breaking, tipping
- may injure the tree

Staking needed in some situations
- bare root trees
- large conifers
- windy sites
- sandy soils
- tall trees
- reduce vandalism
- remove after 1 year!

Photo Courtesy South Dakota State University

Source: Keith Wood, CSFS
Establishment
Tree Wrap

Tree wrap

• May be useful November-April to prevent sunscald - Remove during growing season

• Can harbor insect and disease concerns

Photo Source: [www.plantsandgardening.com](http://www.plantsandgardening.com)

Source: Keith Wood, CSFS
Establishment
Fertilizing & Pruning Questions

Should I ...

• Fertilize immediately after planting?
  – Not recommended for initial establishment

• Prune immediately after planting?
  – Only remove dead, broken branches, & some structural
  – (I leave some initial smaller suckers if significant percentage of foliage on young transplant)

Source: Keith Wood, CSFS
Establishment
Watering After Planting

• Watering (April-September)
  • 10 gallons/inch diameter
    – 1”-3” diameter-water weekly
    – 4”-8” diameter-water 3 times/month
  • 15 gallons/inch diameter
    – 10”+ diameter-water 2 times/month

• Watering (October-March)
  • 10 gallons/inch diameter, 1 to 2 times/month

Source:  http://saver.denverwater.org
# Establishment Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Encourages growth</th>
<th>Limits growth</th>
<th>Little or no effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loose soil</td>
<td>Compacted soil</td>
<td>Peat or organic matter added</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proper irrigation</td>
<td>Little or no irrigation</td>
<td>Water absorbing gels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mulch 8' around planting hole</td>
<td>Grass and weeds close to trunk</td>
<td>Root stimulant products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Root flare above soil surface</td>
<td>Planting too deeply</td>
<td>Adding spores of mycorrhizae *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaving shoots intact</td>
<td>Pruning at planting</td>
<td>Fertilizing at planting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Keith Wood, CSFS
Establishment

Should I ...

• Check tree regularly & at least yearly for tree care needs? YES
Planting and Establishment

International Society of Arboriculture Planting Standard

- Use 2 opposing flexible ties when staking is necessary
- Gently pack back-fill using water to settle soil
- Set ball on firmly packed soil to prevent settling
- Keep mulch 6” back from trunk
- 3-4” layer of mulch
- Cut burlap and rope away from top half of root ball
- Trunk Flare
Resource Links

- National Arbor Day Foundation  www.arborday.org
- The Right Tree in the Right Place  www.righttreerightplace.com/planting
- Tree Link  www.treelink.org
- Dr. Ed Gilman, University of Florida  http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/planting
- International Society of Arboriculture  www.isa-arbor.com
- Colorado Tree Coalition  www.coloradotrees.org
- Shigo and Associates  www.shigoandtrees.com
- CSU Extension  www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/pub.html

Source: Shelly Simmons, CSFS