

Shade Tree Advocate

Speaking Out For Community Forests

Spring '98

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The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee's mission is to advance Minnesota's commitment to the health, care and future of all community forests.

Speaking Out

Nature's Niches

With spring planting in full swing, one of the main concerns in many communities is selecting the right tree for the right spot. Choosing species that thrive in urban areas can present unique challenges, but nature itself gives us clues for increasing our successes.

Read on and learn more about choosing trees for urban spaces from George H. Ware, Dendrologist Emeritus at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL. These insights are from his presentation at the Shade Tree Short Course in the Twin Cities in March.

Nature's Niches: Clues for Selecting Tough Urban Trees

It has been said that more than 80 percent of urban tree problems begin in the soil. The most common problems for trees planted in restricted places can be traced to poor drainage and root drowning, summer dehydration of roots, roots outgrowing the soil volume available to them, increasing water and nutrient needs and alkalinization or salinization of the soil. Periodic selective pruning of the crown may extend the life of the tree, but detrimental soil changes such as rising pH levels or increasing salinity may not be easily modified.

Judicious reduction of the crown has been likened to the grooming of a large bonsai plant. But the bonsai analogy breaks down with the virtual impossibility of renewing inhospitable soil.

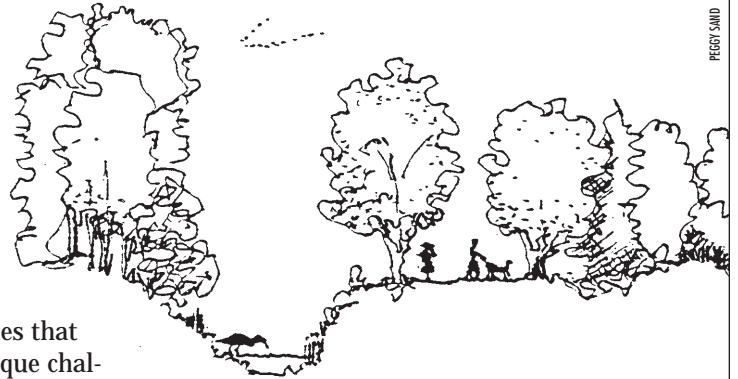
Seasonal evenness of moisture is an important consideration. Root damage may come from prolonged conditions of either excessive soil moisture or

of soil dehydration. The root-damaging episode may be half forgotten by the time crown dieback appears.

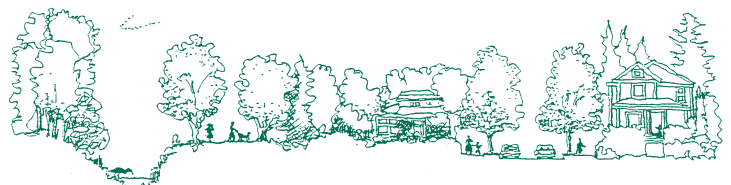
Locally indigenous trees generally fare well in urban parks, campuses, and other open areas. But what about the restricted or inhospitable planting places along streets . . . especially in downtown areas? These microenvironments are much different than the general climatic and soil conditions of the local woodlands. The phrase "tough trees for tough situations" suggests that for adverse urban environments, we might look to trees from nature's own tough-tree testing "laboratories" for the best possibilities.

Floodplains and swamps are tough-tree testing places. Prolonged flooding in spring and excessively dry soils in summer permit survival of only those trees evolutionarily adapted to a wide range of soil-moisture conditions. Trees that can tolerate the low oxygen levels of the swamp and floodplain soils can also tolerate the low oxygen levels of clayey and compacted soils, or the rubble-laden fill material that sometimes makes up urban soil. The most com-

Nature's Niches continued on p. 3



PEGGY SAND



God Dag!

That's the cheery way Scandinavians greet each other. Winters's blahs have given way to leaves and flowers, making everyone more cheery. It makes it easier to enlist volunteers to plant trees. The technical information in this issue will help you plant the right way. But corral the enthusiasm of spring to get the job done!

The *Advocate* is an exciting new forum for MnSTAC. More importantly, it reaches out to the wider community to aid our efforts to preserve and renew Minnesota's urban and community forests. You are all important to us—and we need your assistance. For starters, you can:

- Get involved with your local tree board/committee
- Contact your regional STAC; become active or help to form one if none exists
- Plant a family tree (birthday, wedding anniversary, you make up the occasion) and pledge to care for it.

MnSTAC has grown in numbers and activities over the years, but we need greater diversity to reach and represent all “communities.” Working together, we really can make a difference. Back in 1974, fifteen of us were meeting to advise state agencies on Dutch elm disease and oak wilt. Don Willeke arrived to lead and galvanize the group into MnSTAC. Warning of impending disaster and advocating state assistance for trees led to a “Minnesota miracle,” the Shade Tree Bill. This allocation is the largest amount ever spent by a state for tree disease management, replanting and research.

Today, we still face serious issues:

- insects like gypsy moth and Japanese beetle
- development in wooded areas that leave construction damage, increased wind throw and oak wilt
- floods and storms (wind, ice and tornados), destroying trees, leaving hazards and increasing insect/disease problems
- improper pruning.

If you don't have a family or personal reason to plant a tree, at least plant one to replace a tree lost in the March tornados. Your summer *Advocate* will take an in-depth look at the effect of natural disasters on trees and what we can all do to help. Meanwhile, keep this spring's affected residents in your prayers. 🌿

Glen Shirley

MnSTAC President Shirley lives in a “rurban” area (southern Dakota County). He is Bloomington's City Forester and an ISA Certified Arborist.

Thief River Falls and Rollingstone

Hundreds of communities throughout Minnesota are creating forest programs that make a difference in the environment today and create a rich legacy for the future. Some of these forestry efforts have been in place for many years; others are just getting started. Thief River Falls in northwestern Minnesota exemplifies a high quality, mature urban forest program. Rollingstone, in the southeastern part of the state, is a newcomer to community forest projects.

Thief River Falls

The strong community forest program in this Minnesota city traces its beginnings largely to a tree crisis: Dutch Elm Disease. When DED struck, the community needed help. City management learned they needed to have a certified tree inspector on staff in order to get funding to fight the disease from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Shade Tree Program. There was no inspector, but city employees in small communities often shoulder several responsibilities simply out of economic necessity. At his supervisor's request in 1977, John Johnson began taking tree inspector workshops, launched into self study and made connections with others in the industry. He joined the Minnesota Arboriculture Society, earned certification as a tree inspector . . . and became Thief River Falls' City Forester and leading tree advocate.

Over the past twenty-one years, Thief River Falls has gradually built a strong, healthy com-

munity forest program that unites students, citizens, the business community, city management, park and street employees in assuring quality results. What began as an effort to mainly control a single disease has expanded to a full range of planting, maintenance, landscaping and beautification projects in this community of 8100 people.

Johnson believes a key to success even in a mature program is to stay visible and active in the community. When you're out there producing quality projects and keeping people involved, the results are quickly seen. Arbor Day celebrations, projects with students and citizens, local radio talk shows, presentations to service clubs, tree inspection activities and being able to answer tree-related questions all serve to keep Thief River Falls citizens informed and involved.

Today, there is a focus on more tree planting, but the goal is better tree quality rather than simple quantity. Proper species and site selection, planting, pruning, fertilizing and post-planting care are top priorities. Species selected in recent years include a variety of ashes, sugar maples, lindens, Schubert choke cherries (Canada red) and flowering crabs. Moderate-to-fast growing street trees with low maintenance needs and ability to thrive in the region's high-alkaline soils are chosen. Red maple will not grow well and relatively few conifers dot the landscape.

Collaboration and cooperation are critical to tree program success. Keeping close connections with city administration and working in tandem with



other city departments is crucial. The tree budget competes for the same dollars with other city needs and must be consistently sold to city administration. As competition for local tax dollars increases, other funding sources are often needed and Johnson may find himself in the roles of marketer or grant writer. Master gardeners, garden and nursery organizations and community service groups are strong allies in planning and implementing Thief River Falls' urban forest program.

Rollingstone

Rollingstone, population 757, is nestled in the beautiful rolling valleys near Winona. The town is surrounded by forest, yet no concentrated effort had been made to create a community forest within city limits until a ReLeaf Grant in 1996 brought people together and generated new enthusiasm.

The initial project was to beautify the grounds of the new elementary school. Created on what was formerly a ball field, the treeless schoolgrounds were stark and barren. With the help of the grant, students, citizens of the community and city leaders (whose offices are also in the new school building) came together to plant and provide regular on-going maintenance to over 50 trees. Plantings were especially valued because Rollingstone

Community School is an environmental magnet school, with ponds and nature trails nearby.

Both beauty and wildlife habitat were taken into account as plantings were planned. Native species have been the plantings of choice.

The city has gone on to develop a real community effort for beautification, including creating a theme, "Nature's Showcase." An active Park/Tree Board plans and implements opportunities to enhance the community forest. Volunteers replace trees damaged by snowmobiles and disease and help park and recreation staff provide care and maintenance to city trees. State Highway 248 stretches across the south edge of the city, and a county highway runs through the downtown area. The city is working with both the county and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to plant trees and beautify the areas along these roads. Plans for downtown area improvement include removing wires and poles and adding trees and attractive plantings along the sidewalks and boulevards.

City efforts have been recognized with a 1996 Arbor Month Site Award and a 1996 MnSTAC Outstanding Arbor Day Award. City Clerk Sharon Behrens comments that citizens are proud of being named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation in 1996 and 1997. Enthusiasm is high for continuing to build a top quality community forest. 🌱

Nature's Niches, from p. 1

monly planted street trees of many Midwestern towns are floodplain trees: silver maple and green ash. A third floodplain species, the American elm, was once the most commonly planted street tree in much of the eastern and midwestern USA. Swamp white oak, river birch and Drummond red maple are other hardy floodplain species.

Savannas are also tough-tree testing areas. They usually have low rainfall and only a few kinds of trees. Bur oak, hackberry, honeylocust and Kentucky coffeetree are examples.

Even in humid forested regions there are scattered areas where shallow soil formed on limestone or chalk lies under savanna-like groupings of hawthorns, viburnums, dogwoods, junipers and oaks. Trees naturally at home on shallow clay over limestone may cope well with the difficult substrata of urban planting places.

Insufficient rainfall may limit the distribution of trees with a large geographic range. These *border trees* have been stress-tested and selected by nature for millennia and provide sources of genetic materials from which tough trees may be selected. Some examples of forest trees that have range edges west of the Mississippi river are American linden, sugar maple, black maple, red maple, red oak, white ash and ironwood. A tree from a dry, droughty border section of its geographic range appears to have better coping capacity for urban sites than does a tree from a more climatically favorable part of the range. Trees from drier parts of their range have higher genetic root-crown ratios than trees from more favorable spots. The more extensive root systems provide extra resilience and margin for recovery when adversity strikes, especially drought. A more extensive root system, increasing the likelihood of greater survivability, may mean slower top growth. But rapid top growth is usually a priority in nursery production.

Another approach to choosing successful urban trees for adverse environments is to seek out *pioneer species*. These are the trees that colonize open fields or newly formed land surfaces such as barren areas left after coal or gravel removal. These hardy trees have the capacity to endure a lot of environmental adversity, both above ground and in their root systems. Their success in nature's laboratory demonstrates their capacity to cope in human-made adverse situation. Midwestern examples are species of sumacs, hawthorns, elms, dogwoods, willows and poplars. 🌱

Ash Yellows: Your Ash Tree Can Live With It

White ash and green ash are among the most commonly planted landscape trees in Minnesota and much of the midwest. The ash is adaptable and generally hardy, but it is susceptible to a common health problem known as “ash decline.”

Ash decline can result from a number of causes, including various diseases, insects and environmental stresses. One contributing cause, discovered in the 1980s, is a disease called *ash yellows*. While this progressive and challenging disease is still incurable, it need not be fatal if the tree is well cared for and protected against undue stresses.

Ash yellows is caused by a specialized type of bacteria called a phytoplasma. It has no cell walls, lives in the phloem of a host and cannot be grown in a laboratory. The phytoplasmas damage the tree by collecting in the phloem, interfering with the movement of plant sugars, reducing starch accumulation in the roots and altering plant nutrition and growth. Precisely how the disease is spread is not known, but phloem-feeding insects are the main suspects. Leafhoppers are common and suspected, but not confirmed. Grafting, even among lilacs and ash, can also spread the organisms.

The disease occurs throughout most of the United States except the far west and the south. It is also prevalent in southern Canada. Mixed land use areas such as woodlots, hedgerows, urban forests and windbreaks are at greater risk for ash yellows than are large forests. White ash is most susceptible; green ash is intermediate in susceptibility, while velvet ash appears to be tolerant. A nine-city study in Iowa and Wisconsin in 1994



COURTESY RAINBOW TREE CARE

revealed common frequency ranges from 3–19%. In Falcon Heights, Minnesota, frequency was 14% and the forest near the St. Paul Academy was 34%. In a Great Plains study, the frequency rate for urban-rural trees was 68% and for woodland trees 46%.

Ash yellows is typically a chronic disease. It can grow undetected for many years until environmental stresses such as drought, compacted or poor soil, cold injury or insect infestations bring on the decline of the tree.

Identifying Ash Yellows

Reduced growth rate, branch dieback (scattered death of branches and crown) and forked twigs (called deliquescent branching, which makes branch ends look somewhat tufted) are all clues to ash yellows, but they can also be symptoms of other conditions. The only reliable diagnostic symptom in the field is witches' brooming. A witches' broom is a cluster of short (usually less than a foot long), spindly, upright twigs originating from a single point. They usually appear on trunks or branches. Each of the twigs sprouts at its nodes, giving

The clearest sign of ash yellows is the appearance of witches' brooms.

the broom a bushy appearance. Foliage tends to be small and ranges in color from pale green to yellow. It may lose the characteristic compound leaf pattern, appearing as simple leaves.

Witches' broom by itself isn't a reliable indicator of the disease, however. Most infected trees produce witches' broom under the right conditions, but at any given time, many infected trees do not show the symptom. A lab test is the only way to diagnose with certainty. A fluorescent microscope examination called a DAPI test can determine the presence of phytoplasmas in small roots.

Management Tips

The pattern of distribution needs research and could be important for future control of the disease. Research of cultivars and root stocks has the potential to clarify important information about resistance to ash yellows organisms. Carefully inspecting nursery stock for witches' brooms before using it for grafting is prudent. Close field inspections and early detection followed by good care (watering, mulching, light fertilizing, etc.) helps infected trees maintain their vitality. Infected trees with significant dieback and progressive decline should be removed.

While ash yellows does not mean automatic death for a tree, it is a call for observation and special care.

This article is based on information from the "Ash Yellow and Ash Decline" workshop presented by Dr. Mark Gleason at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus in March, 1998. Dr. Gleason is an extension plant pathologist at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. 🌿

The Right Way to Plant a Tree

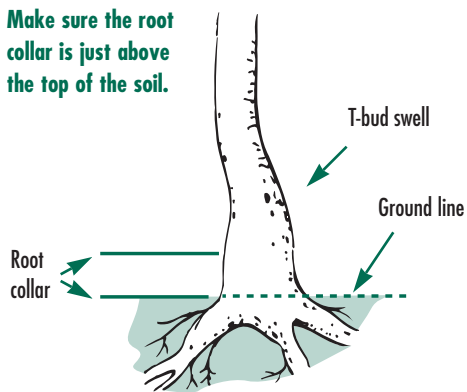
by Gary Johnson and Cindy Ash

Trees can be purchased in many sizes, as bare root, containerized or balled and burlapped specimens. Basic planting is the same but handling and special considerations apply, depending on the size and type.

Tips for All Trees

- **Select the right plant** for the site. Base this on the soil type, soil pH, surface and sub-soil drainage, and exposure to sun, wind and de-icing salts.
- **Prepare the site** by removing the sod. Loosen the soil by tilling or spading an area three to five times wider in diameter than the width of the root system, and only to the depth of the root system.
- **Dig a hole** in the center of this circle that is one foot larger in diameter than the root ball and is exactly as deep.
- **Maintain** undisturbed (not loosened) soil beneath the root ball to prevent the tree from settling.
- **Carefully place the tree** in the center of the hole and double-check that the root collar (lowest part of the trunk, immediately above the uppermost root) is just above the

Make sure the root collar is just above the top of the soil.



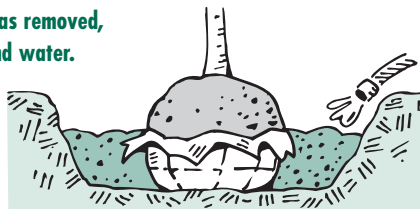
The old way

The new way to plant a tree: prepare a wide-diameter site and dig a properly sized hole in the center.

top of the soil. Tip: The uppermost root should be just below the soil surface. See drawing for proper depth.

- **Backfill** around the roots with the soil that was removed. Lightly pack or water the soil during this process to eliminate air pockets. Backfill to the height of the root ball, no higher.

Backfill half way with the soil that was removed, and water.



- **MULCH** with four to six inches of coarse wood chips or shredded bark. Pull the mulch back from the trunk to prevent direct contact with the root collar and trunk.
- **Water** is very important to a newly planted tree. A slow, soil-saturating trickle a couple times a week is a good rule of thumb for a new tree, but varies depending on soil type and plant size. This should provide the new

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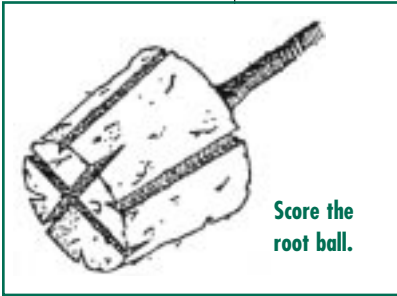


The Right Way to Plant a Tree

roots with sufficient moisture without drowning them. They need oxygen, too! Adjust the watering schedule accordingly for rain or very dry conditions.

Don't Forget To:

➤ **Inspect** containerized and container-grown trees prior to planting to see if the roots are pot bound—circling around themselves. (Avoid purchase of pot bound plants if possible). If pot bound, remove the pot and make a vertical slice up each quarter of the root ball to a depth of about one inch. Cut an X across the bottom of the soil ball to a depth of about one inch. Gently loosen some of the roots, then plant.



➤ **Inspect** bare root trees for broken roots and all trees for broken branches prior to planting. Remove any of these with a sharp hand pruner. Also, remove crossing or rubbing branches.

➤ **Keep** all types of root systems moist prior to planting. Moist straw or sawdust works well for bare root trees.

➤ **Soak** bare root trees in water one hour prior to planting.

➤ **Sweat** bare root trees in a shaded place such as a garage and keep them moist until the buds open. Sweating is a process that creates favorable conditions necessary for bud break and development on certain tree species, such as oaks and hackberries.

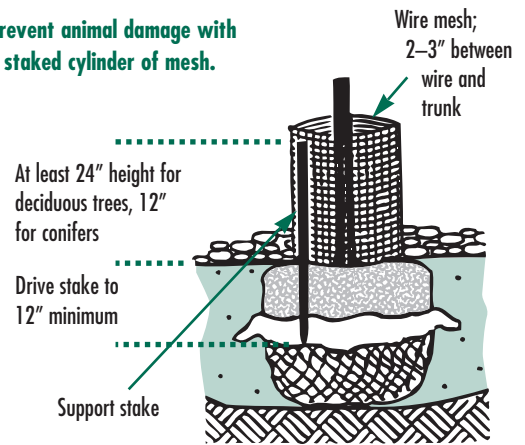
➤ **Remove** all containers prior to planting, including biodegradable, papier-mache pots. **If the roots and soil are loose in the container, then place the container in the planting hole and carefully cut away the container as you backfill with soil.**

➤ **Be sure** all roots extend away from the trunk to prevent future problems with encircling and stem girdling roots.

➤ **Remove** the upper two rungs on wire baskets before completely backfilling. Do not remove any of the wire basket before the tree is safely in the planting hole and is partially backfilled!

➤ **Remove** the nails holding the burlap together; then cut away the burlap after the plant has been partially backfilled. Never

Prevent animal damage with a staked cylinder of mesh.

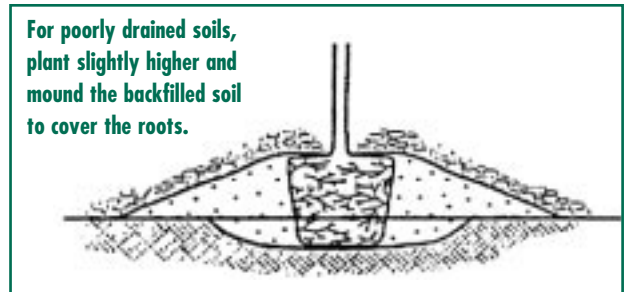


allow any burlap to remain above the soil surface.

➤ **Cut and remove all twine and rope from around the soil ball after planting.**

➤ **Prevent** animal damage to young trees by placing a cylinder of 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth around the trunk, leaving two to three inches between the wire and the trunk.

For poorly drained soils, plant slightly higher and mound the backfilled soil to cover the roots.



Tips For Special Situations:

➤ For heavy and/or poorly drained soils, plant slightly higher than normal and mound the soil up to cover the roots.

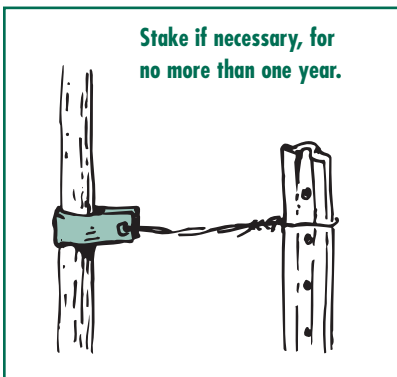
➤ Do not add peat to poorly drained, clayey soils, as it can act as a sump and draw water into the root zone.

➤ Do not add rocks or gravel to the bottom of a planting hole to improve drainage—unless connected to drain tile.

➤ When using tree spades, water the trees thoroughly before moving them. Rough up the sides of the planting holes with a shovel or rake, then place the trees slightly higher than the original grade to allow for settling.

➤ If using a weed control barrier, use a porous landscape fabric. Do not use plastic around trees.

► **Staking:** Generally not necessary but if the tree is unstable should be applied to allow for some movement and then **REMOVED** within one year. Connect the tree to the stakes with wide (two inches or wider), flexible materials, such as strips of burlap, canvas or old bicycle inner tubes. Avoid ropes, strings or wires in garden hose sections.



Know Your Soils

- Test the soil for pH and nutrients. Contact your local Extension office.
- Test the soil for drainage. Dig a hole 24" deep, and fill it with water. All water should drain within 24 hours.
- Test the soil for compaction. You should be able to easily dig down two spade depths (about 18"). If the soil is too hard to dig, either don't plant there, or loosen the soil in an area with a diameter of ten feet.

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Specification graphics modified or taken from "Inspection and Contract Administration Guidelines for Mn/DOT Landscape Projects, 1997 Edition," except as noted.

Dispelling A Myth

Amending Planting Site Soil

It Makes You Feel Good, But What About the Trees?

by Gary Johnson



Old habits are comfortable and often difficult to change, especially when opinions, "facts" and "research" seem to contradict each other. The value of amending backfill soil with peatmoss, manure, hydrogels, microbial inoculants or fertilizer has been a point of controversy with tree planters recently, and old habits and opinions have often distorted research-based information.

Amending soils implies that something is added or deleted, but most amending practices simply add materials to the soil. In the spirit of simplicity, let's refer to any changes to a planting site as acts of amending. There is now a lot of research-based information on amending at planting time, and most of it is remarkably consistent when put into perspective. The most important perspective to apply to this research is that not every woody plant has been researched, nor every soil type, transplanting method, region of the U.S. or size of plant material.

Water is the most critical "amendment." Supplying adequate water to transplanted trees and shrubs is the definitive factor for plant survival and long-term health. It greatly overrides the negative effects of soil compaction, nutrient deficiencies and turf competition, and amplifies the benefits of organic and microbial amendments, deep cultivation and surface mulching. Poorly-drained soil, soil that percolates slowly and/or remains water-logged for long periods of time, is the most common cause of plant mortality. Amendments that enhance optimal soil water retention, which varies for different species and soil types, are beneficial; amendments that aggravate soggy soil conditions should be avoided. Pretty logical.

Surface mulching with organic materials is the most effective use of time and materials in

Amending Soil continued on p. 8



Amending Soil, from p. 7

regard to transplant survival and long-term health. Two to six inches of mulch for as much of the surface area around a plant as you can tolerate normally results in noticeably improved survival rates, transplant shock recovery and subsequent growth. Combined with adequate irrigation on a regular basis, these two “amendments” are the most effective measures to take.

Loosening the soil prior to planting effectively eliminates the negative effects that compacted soil has on new trees that are recovering from transplant shock. Loosen down to the depth of the tree’s root system, and horizontally to a distance of at least three times the width of the roots. By loosening the compacted soil, cracks and fissures will provide avenues of growth and expansion for the newly-developing roots as well as quicker re-establishment of the characteristic root:shoot ratio of a tree or shrub.

Amending the backfill soil with organic materials often results in faster transplant recovery and greater shoot growth, if soil moisture is maintained near an optimal level. If the newly-planted trees and shrubs are not given supplemental water, or if the soil becomes water-logged, amendments have no effect at best, and negative effects at worst.

If planting site soils are nutrient deficient, adding slow-release fertilizer at low to moderate rates benefits many plants by improving long-term health and growth. Adding microbial inoculants and organic matter to sterile or near sterile soils, and especially if those inoculants are combined with slow-release, low-nitrogen fertilizer additions, often results in higher transplant survival rates and faster root regeneration. However, simply adding fertilizer to the backfill soil has little effect on plant survival and long-term health if the original soil was not severely deficient to start with. And adding massive amounts of nitrogen to any backfill soil often has negative effects on survival and long-term health.

So, to summarize: **loosen** compacted soils to a distance at least three times the width of the plant’s root spread, **amend** with organic materials if the soil is deficient in organic material, **add** nutrients and microbial inoculants if the soil is severely deficient and/or “sterile,” **surface mulch** and keep **soil moisture** at an optimal level. If you don’t water the plants, the rest of your efforts are wasted or possibly even harmful. 🌱

Amendments that enhance optimal soil water retention , , , are beneficial; amendments that aggravate soggy soil conditions should be avoided. Pretty logical.



Tree City USA is an annual program that recognizes communities for their urban forestry programs and activities. It is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with state foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

The annual statewide Tree City USA Recognition Luncheon took place March 26 at Majestic Oaks in Ham Lake, MN. Two regional recognition events also took place at the NE Community Forestry Workshop in Cloquet on February 4th and at the NW Community Forestry Workshop in Crookston on March 10th.

Tree City USA ‘Facts’:

■ Minnesota had 132 Tree City USA communities recognized in 1997. Minnesota is in the ‘top-3’ nationally of states awarding Tree City USA. Ohio and Illinois have more Tree City communities, but the two states have almost twice as many communities and double the population of Minnesota.

■ The Minnesota cities of Frazee and Pillager are first-time Tree City USA communities this year. Fergus Falls is the state’s oldest Tree City, having certified for 20 years.

Although the numbers of new Tree City USA communities haven’t increased as rapidly as in the past, there are still many Minnesota communities that have the potential to become a Tree City USA. All that is needed is encouragement or interest in starting or expanding current city tree programs.

■ Ten Minnesota communities received 1997 Growth Awards for new or significantly improved tree activities: Austin, Blaine, Eagle Lake, Eden Prairie, Ham Lake, Luverne, Maple Grove, Minneapolis, Ramsey and White Bear Lake.

■ Northern States Power received a Tree Line USA award for a second year. Tree Line USA is a relatively new NADF program that encourages utilities to follow proper practices that safeguard trees.

For more information on Tree City USA or other NADF programs contact your city forester, city hall or the closest DNR Area Forestry office.

MnSTAC 1997 Awards

The 1997 Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee Awards program was held in conjunction with the Tree City USA awards on March 26, 1998 at Ham Lake, MN. The awards are an opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the efforts of individuals, organizations, corporations and governmental units as part of the collective vision for the future of Minnesota's community forests. This year's winners are:

■ Outstanding Volunteer Project *Highway 11 Landscaping Partnership, Warroad*

For: Organizing and implementing the most innovative and successful project actively involving volunteers.

A partnership between the Boy and Girl Scouts, Lions Club, Eagles, area garden clubs, citizens and the MN Department of Transportation resulted in a reforestation and beautification project on the main road through the city.

■ Outstanding Youth Project *Growing Together into the Future (G.I.F.T.), Austin*

For: Organizing and implementing the most notable youth project.

G.I.F.T. is a student-directed project at Austin High School with the vision of creating a park-like setting at the school.

■ Outstanding Partnership *United Power Association and Anoka Electric Cooperative, Northern Metro*

For: Jointly implementing a project that demonstrates a high level of cooperative spirit and effort.

United Power Association, Anoka Electric Cooperative and Tree Trust have been involved in many urban forestry projects since 1992. The partners have provided over \$400,000 to these endeavors and have provided direct education and project support to over 45,000 students, teachers, volunteers, builders and developers, realtors and professional arborists and sponsored over 80 community plantings.

■ Outstanding Arbor Day/Arbor Month Celebration

Longfellow Community and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

For: Organizing the celebrations that best commemorate and further the Arbor Day ideal.

A collaboration between the school, community and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board resulted in the official Minneapolis Arbor Day site at Longfellow Community School. The celebration, "Growing Community," was a festival of planting, parades and ceremony.

■ Distinguished Service Award *Kermit Nelson, Hawley*

For: MnSTAC member contributing most significantly to urban and community forestry on behalf of MnSTAC.

In his 20 years as Street and Park Foreman, Kermit Nelson has established a tremendous legacy for the city of Hawley. Among his many projects is a Dutch elm disease control program, reforestation with the planting of nearly 1,200 trees and a tree maintenance program with an emphasis on training young trees. The community will continue to be recognized as an oasis in the prairie for years to come, in part due to the efforts of Kermit Nelson.

■ Tree Care Advisor of the Year *Lorrie Stromme*

For: Tree Care Advisor contributing most significantly to urban and community forestry through community service work.

Lorrie Stromme's projects include working with the City Tree project in rallying community volunteers to maintain trees on vacant, tax-fortified brownfields; Windom Park Arbor Day; Central Avenue Streetscape; NSP Triangle and working with the city of Minneapolis on a city tree ordinance.

■ Special Merit Award *Urban and Community Forestry Natural Disaster Mitigation Efforts; Terri Smith, Hazard Mitigation Planner*

For: Unique exemplary achievements in community forestry serving as an innovative model for other programs.

Terri Smith helped establish a powerful coalition among the Mn DNR, the

USDA Forest Service, the Federal Emergency Management, the MN Dept. of Emergency Management and other agencies to more effectively plan and respond to natural disaster mitigation opportunities. Her efforts and the relationships she has established serve as a model to be used throughout the US.

Certificates of Recognition ■ Achievement Certificate

Avon Elementary School, Avon

For: The implementation of projects that significantly contribute to the community forest.

High school student Kurt Larson, working toward his Eagle Scout award, developed and implemented a community landscape project for the Avon Elementary School. The initial project laid a foundation for future projects that unite community youth with adult volunteers in creating and sustaining the forest in their community.

■ Sponsorship Certificate *Ryan Companies US, Inc.*

For: The generous financial support and sponsorship of volunteer projects.

Each year the Ryan Companies US, Inc. Eco Team seeks to work in partnership projects with local communities to enhance the environment. The 1997 project planted sixty trees in northeast Minneapolis and provided funding that includes future watering and tree replacements if needed.

■ Stewardship Certificate

For: Demonstrating responsible urban forest management decisions and practices.

DNR Division of Forestry: Forest Insect and Disease Newsletter (Ed. Jana Albers)

Since 1981, this publication has provided timely information on disease and insect problems throughout the state.

Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District #11 Maintenance Support

Throughout the planning and implementation of each planting project, students, staff and volunteers are educated about community forests and the maintenance they require. These maintenance activities support the importance of long-term planning for a healthy urban forest.

About MnSTAC

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MnSTAC) was established in 1974 by a group of concerned citizens to address the health and well being of community forests. MnSTAC provides a forum where people forge a collective vision for the future of Minnesota's community forests and:

- advocates for public and private community forestry interests
- unites for the exchange and dissemination of ideas and information
- serves as the State Urban Forest Council to advise the State Forester on the implementation of state and federally-funded programs.

MnSTAC is recognized throughout Minnesota and the country for its expertise, advice, coordination and support for community trees. It is an organization of diverse individuals who represent a broad spectrum of tree-related interests. It fosters and supports local community tree programs across the state so healthy community forests are fully integrated into community development, infrastructure, education and management.

The MnSTAC resources listed here encourage your calls, questions and sharing of ideas.

MnSTAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Glen Shirley, City of Bloomington
Phone: 612/948-8760
Fax: 612/948-8770

Vice President: Dorothy Johnson
Phone: 612/451-3457

Katie Himanga, Heartwood Forestry
Phone: 612/345-4976

Ken Holman, DNR Forestry
Phone: 612/772-7565

Mike Max, EnvironMentor Systems, Inc.
Phone: 612/753-5505

Gary Johnson, U of M Forest Resources
Phone: 612/625-3765

Dwight Robinson, MN Dept. of Agriculture
Phone: 612/296-8578

Ralph Sievert, Mpls. Parks and Rec. Board
Phone: 612/370-4900

MnSTAC COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

Arbor Month Partnership

Chair: Ken Holman, DNR Forestry
Phone: 612/772-7565

Constitution and Election Committee

Chair: Ken Simons, Ramsey County Parks
Phone: 612/748-2500

Education and Research Committee

Chair: Gary Johnson, U of M Forest Resources
Phone: 612/625-3765

Forest Health Committee

Chair: Steve Kunde, Kunde Company
Phone: 612/484-0114

Legislative Committee

Chair: Mark Schnobrich, City of Hutchinson
Phone: 320/234-4459

Outreach Committee

Co-Chairs:
Peter Bedker, Treescapes
Phone: 612/682-9562
Mike Max, EnvironMentor Systems, Inc.
Phone: 612/753-5505

Planning Committee

Chair: Janette Monear, Twin Cities Tree Trust
Phone: 612/920-9326

Publicity and Awards Committee

Chair: Terri Goodfellow-Heyer, MN State Horticultural Society
Phone: 612/643-3601

Scholarship Committee

Chair: Ralph Sievert, Mpls. Park and Rec. Board
Phone: 612/370-4900

Tree Emergency Response Task Force

Chair: Katie Himanga, Heartwood Forestry
Phone: 612/345-4976

Tree Preservation Task Force

Chair: Paul Buck, City of Plymouth
Phone: 612/509-5944

Wood Utilization Task Force

Co-Chairs:
Mike Zins, U of M Arboretum
Phone: 612/443-2460 Ext. 247
Jim Hermann, Mpls. Park and Rec. Board
Phone: 612/370-4900

Regional Shade Tree Advisory Committees

To add more voices to the forum and encourage networking more easily at the local level, three regional MnSTAC units are in place.

Southeast STAC

Southeast STAC represents communities in the eleven counties that are part of the Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development Area.

For information about Southeast STAC, contact:

Chair: Henry Sorenson
Asst. Pub. Service Director, City of Red Wing 612/385-3674
Sec./Treas.: Katie Himanga
Heartwood Forestry, Lake City 612/345-4976

Headwaters-Agassiz STAC

HASTAC, the Headwaters-Agassiz Shade Tree Advisory Committee, was formed about a year ago as a regional branch of MnSTAC. The NW Regional Development Commission is the fiscal agent.

Recent activities include co-hosting the Northwest Minnesota Community Forest Conference on March 10 at the University of Minnesota, Crookston, with the luncheon and Tree City USA awards. MnSTAC chair Glen Shirley and many other Committee members were present for the event.

HASTAC is planning to present pruning workshops in the near future.

For information about HASTAC contact:

Chair: John Johnson
City Forester, City of Thief River Falls 218/681-1835
Sec./Treas.: Jeff Edmonds
DNR Forestry, Bemidji 218/755-2891

West Central STAC

West Central STAC started in 1997 to help communities in the northwest region share ideas, information and local success stories in managing community trees. The group has since met to discuss the committee's purpose and to promote it to communities.

WESTAC recently worked with HASTAC and the University of Minnesota, Crookston to recognize Tree City USA award winners at the annual Northwest Minnesota Community Forest Workshop at Crookston.

For information about WESTAC, contact:

Chair: Bob Fogel
Director of Parks, City of Moorhead 218/299-5497
Sec./Treas.: Dave Johnson
DNR Forestry, Detroit Lakes 218/847-1596

Events and Conferences

- May 29—**MSA Spring Workshop: Diagnosing Plant Disorders**, St. Paul, MN. Contact Tom Dunlap 612/536-0550
- May 30—**MN Tree Climbing Championship and Trade Show**, St. Paul, MN. Contact Dave Sundmark 612/488-7291
- June 15-19—**Restoring the Urban Forest Ecosystem**, Lago Mar Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Contact Dr. Mary Duryea 352/846-0896
- June 19-20—**9th Annual Minnesota Environmental Education Conference**, Collegeville, MN. Contact Jeff Ledermann, OEA 612/215-0236
- Aug. 2-5—**ISA 1998 Annual Conference and Trade Show**, Birmingham, England. Contact to be announced.

MSA Certified Arborist Exams

- June 12—**Douglas County Extension Office**, Alexandria, MN.
 - Sept. 11—**Anoka County Extension Office**, Anoka MN.
- For both, contact Gary Johnson 612/625-3765*

Opportunities

Through June, 1999—**MnReleaf Forest Health grants** available; DNR Regional Office or 612/772-7925

Internet

- Homepages etc.*
- **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>
- **MnSTAC Homepage**
<http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu/mnstac/mnstac.htm>
- **National Arbor Day Foundation**
<http://www.arborday.org>
- **QuantiTree 2.0** computer software information
<http://www.quantitree.com>

- **U of MN Environmental Events Calendar**
<http://www.umn.edu/cura/env496.htm>
- **Urban Forestry: A Bibliography**, 1996 version
<http://minerva.forestry.umn.edu/urb/>

forestry offices in Caledonia, Faribault, Lake City, Rochester, Lewiston, Mankato or New Ulm.

Need a Prescription?

- *What's this bug on my oak?*
- *Why is anthracnose so bad this year?*
- *Should I try to control spruce budworm defoliation?*

Special Notes

Funding for Oak Wilt Suppression: Southern Minnesota

For the first time ever, financial assistance will be available to suppress oak wilt, a vascular wilt disease that kills large numbers of oaks annually in Minnesota, according to Department of Natural Resources officials. Any landowner may apply to take part in the program, set to begin this spring and summer. Suppression projects will be approved for acceptable practices such as vibratory plowing. Chemical methods of trenching may be approved in inaccessible areas.

To take part and to learn more, landowners should contact their local area DNR

If you get questions like this or are just interested in shade tree and forest health, you might you want to read the DNR's Forest Insect and Disease Newsletter.

The newsletter covers oddball pests as well as the common diseases and insects most tree advocates are likely to encounter. Along with a range of pest information, weather events are discussed light of their effects on tree health. Five issues are produced from May to October. The subscription is free and it's also on-line at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/publications/forestdi/index.html>



Dear Tree Advocate,

We want to hear from you! What are your thoughts about the new *Advocate* newsletter?

What would you like to see articles on?

Please check if appropriate:

- I want more information about joining the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MnSTAC).
- I do not wish to receive the *Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate*. Please remove me from your mailing list.

Mail to: Jan Hoppe
Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate
115 Green Hall, 1530 Cleveland Ave. N.
St. Paul, MN 55108

Name/Organization

Address

Phone Number

Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate

A quarterly newsletter published by the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee.

Managing Editorial Group: MnSTAC Education Committee; Gary R. Johnson, Chair

Editor-in-Chief: Jan Hoppe

Design: Jim Kiehne

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Address inquiries to:

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Minnesota ReLeaf Grant Program

1997-99 Grant Program

Over 80 local units of government, schools and non-profits across Minnesota will complete 88 tree planting and dozens of forest health projects in this biennium. Students, city staff and volunteers will plant over 10,000 trees to restore habitats, save energy, benefit wildlife, reduce erosion and provide educational opportunities. An estimated 150 oak wilt infection areas will be treated, primarily in southeastern and central Minnesota communities that were not eligible to participate in past oak wilt suppression programs. Other immediate tree health problems and catastrophic damage due to natural disasters will also be treated.

All the projects are part of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Minnesota ReLeaf Tree Planting and Preservation Grant Program. Funding was approved by the Minnesota Legislature as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR). The grants were awarded by Mn ReLeaf Steering Committees in each DNR region. Tree-planting grants ranging from \$323 to \$10,000 each were awarded. Competition for funds was keen; requests were well beyond the money available. The quality and diversity of the projects, collaborative partnerships and commitment to ongoing maintenance are the highest in the six years of the program.

Mn ReLeaf educational materials have been distributed for the many volunteer and homeowner training workshops that are now integral to local programs. Coordination

among state agencies, the University of Minnesota and non-profits such as the Horticultural Society and Tree Trust provide consistently good, research-based information and quality workshops statewide. Participation in these events is increasing, resulting in better-trained staff and volunteers at the neighborhood level.

1999-2001 Grant Program

The LCMR is being asked to recommend \$700,000 in funding by the Legislature for the Mn ReLeaf Matching Grant Program. If funded, matching grants will be provided to plant trees, restore woodland habitats, protect against oak wilt and construction damage and develop GIS-based community forest assessments.

In this biennium, an estimated 15,000 native trees will be planted in about 80 communities and some 400 oak wilt infection centers will be treated. About ten GIS-based community forest assessments and management plans will be completed to help communities integrate management of natural resources into their infrastructure, zoning and comprehensive planning processes.

MnSTAC's Recommended Action

Support \$700,000 in funding for the Minnesota ReLeaf Matching Grant Program during the 1999-2001 bienni-

Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate
115 Green Hall
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