

Tree Hugging

Trees will fare better if they are “hugged” from the ground up. Covering the roots with a soft cover of mulch will help to avoid transpiration.

Mulch 6 to 8 inches deep, beginning 6 to 8 inches from the trunk, and cover to the drip line. This will keep the roots from drying out and dying.

Mulching is especially vital for newly transplanted trees to prevent loss of roots.

Types of Mulch:

- Wood Chips
- Grass Clippings
- Straw
- Decorative Bark
- Gravel

Mulching is part of our 2-year warranty program for trees. Call us for free estimates for on – site moves or buying large trees.

Tree Thoughts

Trees add Energy to the Environment: A Dynamic Solution

Planting Trees

The Urban Forest Climate Project (U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture) states that almost every tree that’s planted “will result in environmental, social, and economic benefits that are far greater than its costs.” Planting a tree is an investment in tomorrow.

Trees help purify our air, too, by removing carbon dioxide (CO₂) and particulates. As trees grow, they absorb CO₂, retain the carbon in their wood, and release the oxygen. Trees provide surface area for particulates to settle on, which further cleans the air.

By choosing the right tree to plant and the best place to plant it, you’ll grow beautiful, healthy trees needing little maintenance. The care you take to plant the right tree in the right place now will save you time and money later. (From the Spring 1994 Public Service Update).

Water for Survival

Dr. James Feucht, one of Colorado’s leading plant experts, discusses these problems in his book, Landscape Management. He notes that evapo-transpiration is caused by three factors: the temperature of the air around the leaf and stem surfaces, the relative humidity, and the velocity of the wind. “Plants suffer”, he says, “when water is withdrawn and the winds are cold and strong”.

Watering Tips

The best watering method to use in the mountains and foothills is drip irrigation. Drip irrigation provides a steady source of water that penetrates deep into the root ball. A simple method for trees is to put two PVC hose rings around the tree, one half way between the trunk and the edge of the ball and the other at the outer edge of the ball to encourage the growth of new feeder roots. Use a two-gallon emitter for each inch of trunk diameter, more if the tree is very tall. Pop the emitters onto the rings and attach a quick release valve to the system for the garden hose. Often several trees can be attached in sequence to one line.

If a drip system is not feasible, then the best method is watering slowly with a hose. Set the hose near the base of the tree, or better yet, use a root feeder that sticks deep into the ground, and move it around the tree. Trees can die from shallow watering, or over-watering. Water at about 1/3 pressure so the roots don't drown, and the water doesn't puddle up and run off. Transplanted trees need to be watered 2-4 hours depending on their size; shrubs and plants 1/2 to 1 hour each. Each species has its own watering requirements. For example, spruces take more water than Douglas Firs or Ponderosas.

Native Trees

10-35 ft. Tree Spade Planted

Ponderosa Lodgepole Spruce Aspen Fir

Pruning

Pruning gets a tree ready for spring growth. Branches are often broken off from high winds and heavy snows. When cutting a branch, be sure to allow the branch collar to remain. A branch collar is the area between the trunk and the branch. To keep that area intact, do not cut closer than one fourth to one half inch from the tree trunk. Cutting closer to the trunk will inhibit healing and leave the tree open to insect infestation.

Wrapping It Up

Deciduous trees such as Aspen and Cottonwood will sometimes split on the trunk from winter frost. Wrapping them will do two things: prevent the frost split, and prevent the elk from sharpening their antlers on them. A fungus can develop under the wrap if it is left on through the summer, injuring the trunk of the tree. If you wrap in the winter, unwrap in the summer

What About Insects?

According to Colorado State University entomologist, David Leatherman, beetle infestation is stabilizing. About twenty years ago, many pieces of beautiful blue-stained furniture were made from nature's pruning in the Evergreen area. This mass die-off of trees was the work of the Mountain Pine Beetle.

Once the Mountain Pine Beetle flies in late summer, the tree is dead. If you notice any browning in trees not cut down in the summer, be sure to remove them quickly. Mountain Pine Beetle spraying needs to be done in the summer, before the beetles fly in July.

Distressed and dead trees make a handy habitat for another beetle common to our mountain area, the Ips Beetle. The Ips Beetle will attack newly planted trees. To save the trees you don't want to be next year's firewood, spray them in the early spring to prevent injury from the Ips Beetle.

The Tree Lady Says...

Trees planted with a tree spade have large root balls (8 000 to 12 000 lbs). As a result over 95% of them live

Joan Spalding, PhD., has been an Evergreen resident for more than 30 years. She is a member of the Society of Commercial Arborists with the International Society of Arboriculture.

Post-Planting Tree Care

Watering Instructions

- Your trees have been equipped with a drip irrigation system. The number of emitters provided for each tree is based on the size and type of tree. Each group of three to five connected trees is equipped with a hose "quick-connect" and one or more drain caps. If your trees are connected to an irrigation system with an automatic timer, be sure they are set on a separate line, programmed to run once a week for three to four hours.
- Water once a week during the growing season (April through September) for a three or four hour period. (Watering is not necessary if there has been substantial rainfall during the week.)
- Water every 4 to 5 days if the weather is extremely hot or dry.
- To determine whether a tree needs water dig down to a depth of 6-8 inches on the outer edge of the drip line. If it is crumbly and dry it is time to water again.
- Periodically check your emitters to ensure they are not clogged. Pull back the mulch at several points during watering to inspect the emitters.
- Starting in October, unless the tree is newly planted, water every 2 weeks.
- Drain the drip system when freezing weather begins. Screw off the drain cap(s) provided on the low end(s) of each system.
- Avoid winter drought by watering when the ground is dry or at least two to three times in the winter when the weather warrants. Use a hose on the surface, about halfway between the trunk and the drip line. If possible, use a root feeder to get the water down through the surface. Begin the watering process early in the day so the water won't freeze around the tree.

Trees are most commonly killed by shallow watering or over watering, so be sure to water the trees according to their size for at least 3 hours per tree. Long, slow deep watering guarantees that the fibrous roots that extend 18 inches or more below the ground will get saturated.

Spraying for Insects

Transplanting trees makes them more susceptible to attack by insects. They must be sprayed by a professional tree spraying company to prevent infestation by Mountain Pine Beetle or Ips Beetle. We recommend McGarva Tree & Landscape Service, Inc. of Evergreen. (303-674-1372)

Ponderosa Pines and Spruce Trees:

- Have trees sprayed as soon as possible after planting, definitely within one week.
- Have trees sprayed four (4) months after planting.
- Have trees sprayed twelve (12) months after planting.
- Have trees sprayed eighteen (18) months after planting.
- Have trees sprayed twice a year, thereafter.

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