

TREES FOR TODAY & TOMORROW



- Trees reduce greenhouse effects
- Trees reduce soil erosion
- Trees remove carbon
- Trees modify effects of rain, wind and sun
- Trees remove pollutants
- Trees produce oxygen
- Trees recharge ground water

BENEFITS OF TREES

- Increase Property Value
- Reduce Noise Pollution
- Contribute to Community Enrichment
- Save Energy Costs



- Improve Mental Health
- Provide Food for all Living Creatures
- Habitat for Insects, Reptiles, Birds & Mammals



Because of deforestation and urban sprawl, the trees that convert carbon dioxide into oxygen for all living things are disappearing rapidly. Scientists believe replanting trees is a top priority in order to combat climate change.



Leaves are the Food Factories of a Tree

LOCATION MATTERS



- Visualize the tree at full growth.
- Look for potential obstacles like utility lines, foundations, and sidewalks.



PRUNE PROPERLY



- Proper pruning encourages growth and promotes tree health.
- Prune young to train. Prune mature to maintain.
- To control size • To remove damage • To create strength

MAKE WATER COUNT



- Trees need water to maintain health; water under the canopy at the drip line.
- As the tree grows larger the drip line expands.
- Water deeply and infrequently to encourage deep root growth.

PLANT RIGHT



- Plant tree at the proper depth.
- Provide 3-4 inches of mulch.
- Stake the 1st year if necessary.
- Water new trees more frequently than established trees.

Roots Are Vital To Tree Health And Longevity

BE TREE SMART

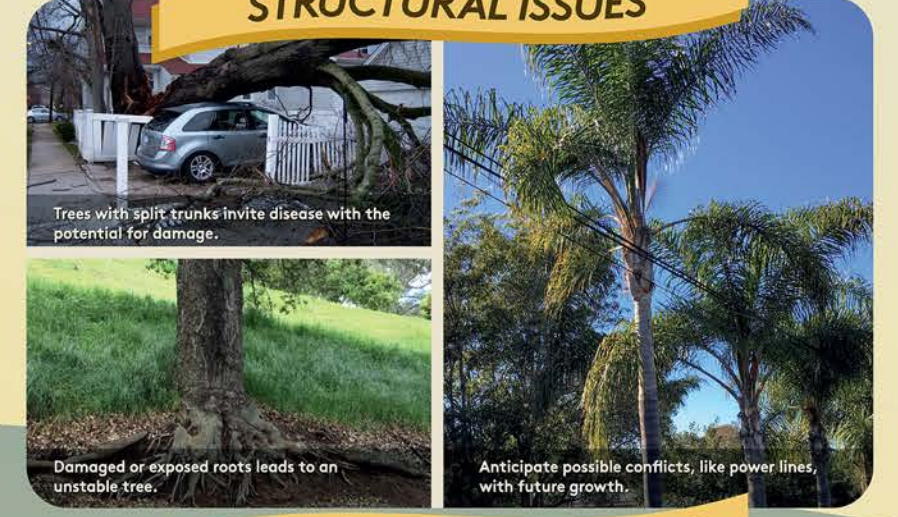
WATER ISSUES



Insufficient water can contribute to the tree's vulnerability to sun scald.

Branch dieback is a possible sign of improper watering.

STRUCTURAL ISSUES



Trees with split trunks invite disease with the potential for damage.

Damaged or exposed roots leads to an unstable tree.

Anticipate possible conflicts, like power lines, with future growth.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS



Follow the wildfire guidelines for your property zone.

Be a friendly neighbor; plant trees at least 6 feet from property lines to keep litter and roots where they belong.

NEED ADVICE?

The best assurance of getting quality advice or service is by hiring an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) or a consulting arborist who is a member of the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA).



Trees Are an Investment

- Trees help clean the air and reduce energy costs.
- Trees mitigate climate change.
- Trees increase property value and provide habitat for wildlife.
- Trees improve the quality of soil and water.

Selecting the Right Tree

- What are the functions of your tree – shade, privacy, aesthetics – or to provide fruits or nuts?
- Consider tree characteristics – shape, mature height, growth rate, canopy spread, potential root damage and litter type.
- Select trees with genetic resistance to local common pest problems.
- Purchase smallest specimen possible and save money.

Know your tree before you plant!

Choose the Best Location

- Consider distance from buildings, sidewalks, property, and sewer lines.
- Be a good tree neighbor – keep your tree, roots, leaves, and litter on your own property.
- For Tree Resources conduct the following searches:
 - Call Dig Alert – contact 811 before you dig
 - Tree Safety – SDG&E – watch out for utility lines
 - California Fire Safe Council – be safe and prepared



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Trees for Today and Tomorrow



Hotline: 858-822-6910
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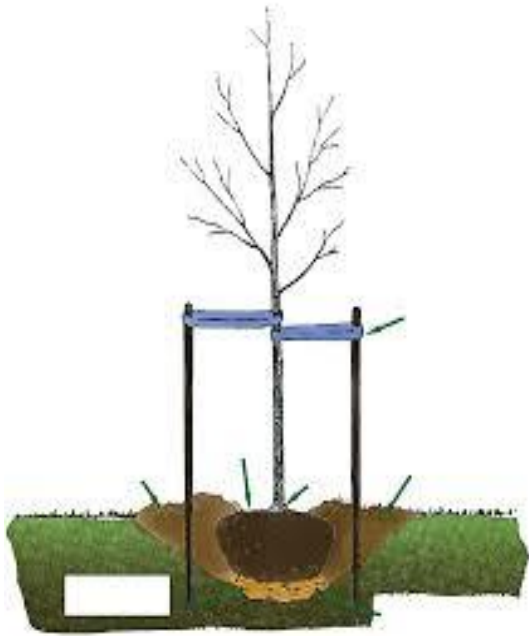
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Choose a Healthy Tree

- Good trees start in the nursery – take the time to carefully inspect trees before buying.
- Check for root health, sturdy branch structure and a strong central leader.
- Look for potential damage – no signs of topping or damage to trunk or limbs.



Planting your tree correctly provides a strong foundation for healthy growth.

Plant Correctly

- Identify root crown of tree and flare where trunk meets roots.
- Dig a shallow, broad planting hole: roughen sides of hole.
- Fill hole with water and let drain into soil – repeat if soil is very dry.
- Slide specimen out of container and scuff up sides of root ball.
- Place tree upright in hole, facing grafting scars away from sun exposure with root crown above soil line.
- Fill hole gently with original dirt and pack firmly.
- Stake only if tree is falling over without support.
- Spread 3-4" of organic mulch around base of tree, kept 3 inches away from trunk.
- Water deeply 3 days after planting and then once a week for 3 weeks.

Caring for Trees

- Train young trees for structure and form.
- **Do Not Top Trees.**
- Once roots are well established, water deeply and infrequently.
- Protect trees from lawn equipment and chemicals.
- Regularly inspect trees for insect damage – if you suspect disease, consult a Certified Arborist.

Tree Mistakes to Avoid

- Topping and poor pruning techniques disfigure trees and make them susceptible to disease.
- Competing plantings such as grass or weeds growing around the base of the tree compete for moisture and nutrients.
- Underwatering trees affects their long-term health; young trees, under five years old, are very vulnerable.

Trees Exhibit Talking Points

I : Trees are an investment and help create a healthier environment

- *Climate change:* Trees mitigate climate change and help reduce the overall concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere
- *Reduce energy costs:* Trees provide cooling shade, helping reduce the cost of air conditioning
- *Help clean the air:* Trees absorb carbon dioxide, odors and pollutant gases, as well as reduce dust particulates in the air
- *Provides habitat for wildlife:* Trees provide shelter for wildlife and contribute to biodiversity – the variety of life found on earth
- *Increase property values:* Several recent nationwide surveys show that mature **trees** in a well-landscaped yard can increase the **value** of a house by 7 to 19 percent.
- *Improve quality of soil and water:* Healthy trees slow water runoff, prevent soil erosion and reduce water pollution.
- *Grow your own fruit and/or nuts:* Edible fruit and nut trees are bountiful and easy to grow.

II: Selecting the right tree for each location greatly improves the health of the tree and reduces problems

- *Function of a tree:* Determine the function of a tree. Is for shade, windbreak, privacy, aesthetics or architectural elements, to provide fruit or nuts?
- *Consider tree characteristics:* Research tree species for shape, mature height, growth rate, foliage, canopy spread, potential root damage and litter type – Know Your Tree Before You Plant
- *Root development matters:* Ensure the roots of a new tree are healthy with good root structure; no kinked or girdling roots to choke off the flow of water and nutrients between roots and branches.
- *Avoid common pest problems:* Select tree species with genetic resistance to local common pest problems.
- *Be smart when purchasing a tree:* Purchase bare root deciduous trees and the smallest evergreen specimen possible

III: Proper tree planting will ensure a young trees' survival and increase the chances of a healthy tree at maturity

- *Consider existing factors:* Know soil type and hours of sunlight, distance from buildings or sidewalks or sewer lines, ensure good drainage to help prevent root rot and encourage healthy root growth
- *Hidden elements:* First call Dig Alert <https://www.digalert.org/> of determine if utility easements or underground obstructions are present
- *Safety factors:* Planting trees near or under utility lines requires careful consideration – check this website for more specific information
<https://selectree.calpoly.edu/right-tree-right-place/utility-precautions>
- *Fire Safety:* Tree species and location can influence the fire safety of your home; care should be taken to lessen factors that contribute to flammability and hazard. If you live in a fire risk area, check with you local Fire Council or Fire Department before planting trees. Check the California Fire Safe Council website for more information: <http://www.cafiresafecouncil.org/>
- *Neighbor Friendly:* Consider the effect a mature tree may have on your neighbor? Will tree litter fall over the property line? Will the roots wander next door?
- *Fall Planting:* Fall is the best planting season due to warmer soil temperature; more soil moisture and roots have more time to establish before summer temperatures arrive.

IV: Choosing a healthy young tree increases potential health at maturity

- *Good trees start in the nursery:* Take the time to carefully inspect trees in the nursery, before buying
- *Finding a good specimen:* Verify root health, strong branch structure and a strong central leader
- *Check for potential damage:* No signs of topping or damage to trunk or limbs

Plant correctly to ensure a healthy tree at maturity; follow these steps

1. Identify the root crown of your tree – scoop away soil to expose where the trunk meets the roots, should be a slight flare visible. That flare should be at least an inch above soil after watering.
2. Prepare planting hole – twice diameter of root ball with slightly sloping sides and as deep as the root ball. Roughen the sides of the hole.
3. Fill hole with water and let drain into soil; repeat if soil is very dry.
4. Slide specimen out of container and scuff up sides of root ball to determine if any coiled roots. Spread out as many roots as possible and cut away any circling ones.
5. Rest root ball on firm soil to avoid settling; place tree upright in the hole, facing grafting scars away from sun exposure.
6. Fill hole with original soil and pack firmly, leaving uppermost root crown slightly above soil grade. Do not add amendments or fertilizers
7. If tree is falling over without support set stakes in ground outside the root ball and at least as deep as the tree, tie loosely with soft, pliable material, no more than 2/3 up the tree. Ties should not be tight.
8. Spread 3-4 “ of organic mulch around base of tree, kept 3 inches away from trunk

V. - Caring for Trees - Trees are a significant investment; providing proper care will help protect that investment

- Stake trees for protection, anchorage and support only as long as needed; all stakes should be removed after one season.
- Train young trees for structure and form; prune young trees with great care so they can grow into healthy, mature trees.
- Prune mature trees properly for optimum health – **Do Not Top Trees.**
- Young trees need more frequent watering for healthy roots; water deeply 3 days after planting and then once a week for the next 3 weeks.
- For the first six months of a tree’s life, water deeply once a week; for the remainder of the first year, water every other week in absence of soaking rain.
- Deep watering encourages the formation of robust roots underground.
- Once roots are well established, water deeply and infrequently, watching for signs of drought stress – are leaves wilting, yellowing curling or browning at the edges?
- Protect trees from lawn equipment like weed whackers and mowers. Cuts in the cambium layer, just behind the tree bark can cause permanent damage and expose the tree to infection.
- Protect young trees from chemicals. Pesticides and herbicides can burn or damage a young tree’s roots and leaves.
- Regularly inspect trees for signs of insect damage; if you suspect disease, consult a Certified Arborists who can inspect the tree and advise you on care and safety. Watch trees carefully for foliage changes to catch problems early and begin care and treatment.

VI: Tree Mistakes to Avoid

- *Topping:* Topping and other poor pruning techniques disfigure trees and make them susceptible to diseases and premature death.
- *Mechanical Damage:* Injury caused to the bark of a tree by weed whackers, lawn mowers, other lawn equipment and bicycles or objects leaned against trees may be permanent and shorten the life of your tree.
- *Be a Good Tree Neighbor:* Pruning or injuring trees that belong to the city or a neighbor is against California law and may result in a lawsuit against you.
- *Competing plantings:* Grass, weeds or other plants growing around the base of the tree compete with the tree for moisture and nutrients as well as creating shelter for potentially damaging insects.
- *Incorrect Watering Practices:* Underwatering trees not only affects their long-term health and growth, it can kill. Young trees, particularly those under five years old, are very vulnerable.

TREE EXHIBIT Literature Resource List

Handouts are located in the file cabinet across from the Extension office information desk or in the MG area on the 2nd floor.

Suggested Handouts		
<i>Number</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Source</i>
15	Avocados	Bender
32	Keeping Landscape Plants Alive	UC ANR
22	Citrus for the Home Garden*	Lazaneo
34	Tree Drought Handout	CA Urban Forests Council
	Children's coloring sheets	misc
Other		
	Tree Exhibit Flipbook	
	Save Our Citrus! (Brochure)	
	TREE CARE CARD SERIES (multiple titles)	
	Free Pest Notes List	
	Free ANR Publication List	
	Trees Pay Us Back Trifold	
Suggested Quick Tips		
	Asian Citrus Psyllid	Beneficial Predators
	Scales	What is IPM?
	Snails & Slugs	Phytophthora Root and Crown Rot