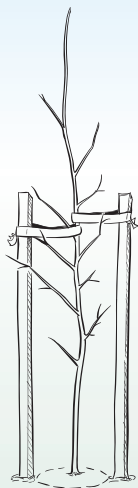


TREE STAKING

Stake trees for protection, anchorage and support.

Considerations for staking depend upon trunk strength, expected wind and site conditions, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic. Many young trees can stand upright alone and grow straight, whereas others need support or protection until trunk taper and caliper can be developed to support the tree upright. Staked trees will typically grow taller, grow less in trunk caliper, become susceptible to rubbing and injury from stakes and ties, and take longer to stand upright when untied. Even though staking can be expensive and time consuming, if done properly can overcome associated problems.

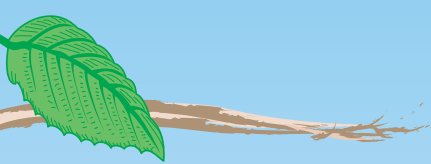
Supportive staking of a newly planted tree whose trunk is not strong enough to stand upright or to return upright after being deflected is recommended. To determine if staking is necessary, remove the nursery stake. If tree cannot stand upright on its own, supportive staking is needed.



To properly stake a tree, follow these steps:

- 1) Two stakes should be placed into the ground outside of the root ball on opposite sides of the tree so the prevailing wind can blow through the two stakes. Remove nursery stake.

(see reverse for more steps)



2) To determine the height of the support tie, support the trunk with two fingers starting at 3 feet above the soil and move fingers upward until the tree is supported enough to stand upright. Place ties 6 inches above this point. Avoid attaching the ties too high on a young tree where the trunk is more succulent and prone to breakage.



3) If using a wooden stake, cut off excess stake at 2 - 3 inches above the ties to avoid branch injury.

4) Protect trees from vandalism or vehicles if necessary. To aid in this, wrap wire caging around the tree stakes to anchor.



As a part of a regular maintenance routine, check the ties to avoid girdling or restricting of the trunk and for breakage. The stakes should be checked to insure they remain upright and do not damage the trunk or branches from rubbing. Remove the stakes and ties when the tree is able to stand upright on its own.

No staking is recommended for most conifers and other trees with branching close to the ground. These trees are usually shorter with sturdy trunks and root systems adequate to hold the tree upright.



For more information about tree planting and staking, refer to ANR publication #8046 available for free downloading at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>, call your local UC Cooperative Extension office, or consult

a certified arborist.

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