Give Your New Tree a Good Start

Getting trees started correctly is critical to their long life, ease of care and low-cost maintenance. Trees with limited rooting areas will need more care and have a shorter life span than trees with a large collar area in which to grow.

The diameter of the planting hole should be at least three times the diameter of the root ball. The depth should be measured to ensure the tree is planted at ground level and in the same depth at which it grew in the nursery. At landings, lawns, streets, curbs or other swapping should be removed before planting.

When planting, please consider where the tree will be located in relation to overhead and underground utility lines. (The location of these lines should determine the kind of tree to plant and site selection.) The mature tree must have enough space away from power lines and in an area large enough to accommodate the canopy and root system.

Planting tall-growing trees under power lines will ultimately require pruning to maintain safe clearance from the wires. Trees toppling into overhead power lines can become a public safety hazard and disrupt your electric service. Therefore it is best not to plant tall-growing trees under or near power lines.

You should not attempt to trim any vegetation growing near or on any overhead power lines. Only specially trained line-clearing professionals should work safely on this vegetation.

Always Consider the Ultimate Maturity Size When Planting

Transformers for Underground Utilities

Electric lines usually are located at the top of the pole, farthest from the ground. Cable TV and telephone lines run closer to the ground, below power lines.

Make sure there are no buried wires before digging in the spot for your new tree.

Customers are asked to call the Utilities Protection Center at 811 before digging. This service is free and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Do not dig or use any equipment in the area where you suspect underground lines are present. We cannot guarantee the location of all line ownership. The location of all underground lines is the responsibility of the utility company. There is no charge for this service.

Benefits of Natural Target Pruning

• Botanically better for the tree
• Sprouting is minimized
• Growth is directed away from the lines
• Less material may be removed in future pruning events
• It creates a safer environment for the community

Drawbacks of Natural Target Pruning

• Initial pruning may not be aesthetically pleasing
• More material may be removed
• It takes more time to implement

For more information, contact the organizations below.

Customer Care Center 1-800-532-7900
Mississippi Urban Forest Council www.mississippiurbanforest.org
Mississippi Forestry Commission www.mfc.state.ms.us
International Society of Arboriculture www.isa-arbor.org
National Arbor Day Foundation www.arbor.org
Professional Arborist Association of Mississippi www.pmarts.org
Southern Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture www.acsf.org
Mississippi State Extension Service www.msstate.edu

www.georgiapower.com/trees
www.treesatlanta.org
www.arborday.org
www.americanforests.org
www.msucares.com
www.gfc.state.ga.us

Compaction Pedestal for Support

Stubs

Compacted Tilled Soil Area

Root Ball

Tall Grass Blockage

Drawbacks to Implementing Target Pruning

• It takes more time
• More material is removed
• The tree is left in a less natural position
• The tree looks unnatural

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Choosing the Best Planting Location

Plants can be used to provide energy savings. Deciduous trees planted on the south and southwest sides of your home will provide shade. Evergreens planted on the north and northwest sides prevent winter winds.

Begin by sketching your yard. Include all structures, above and below ground, and existing plants. Identify the area where you want to plant trees. Different trees need different mature height and spread. You can determine whether something will fit in your yard by planting a small tree in the proposed spot.

Are the trees strong enough to bear loads of ice and snow without breaking?

Are the trees routinely affected by insects and disease?

What is the size of the tree compared to your house's architecture? For example, some very large trees can make a small house appear out of proportion or give it a lopsided look.

Would the tree be an inconsiderate choice? Would it shade your neighbor's house or hangover your property?

Trees to Plant

**Trees to Plant**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diospyros kaki</td>
<td>Japanese Persimmon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osmanthus heterophyllus</td>
<td>Chinese Fringe Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex latifolia</td>
<td>Yaupon Holly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syringa vulgaris</td>
<td>Japanese Lilac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aesculus parviflora</td>
<td>Corneliancherry Dogwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex cornuta</td>
<td>Japanese Holly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinium arboreum</td>
<td>Blueberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forsythia spp.</td>
<td>Forsythia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loropetalum chinense var. x</td>
<td>Lopperalum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamamelis spp.</td>
<td>Witchhazel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myrica spp.</td>
<td>Myrtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ptelea trifoliata</td>
<td>False Holly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornus mas</td>
<td>Dogwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botanical Name</td>
<td>Species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrangea macrophylla</td>
<td>Bigleaf Hydrangea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex cornuta</td>
<td>Japanese Holly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex myrtifolia</td>
<td>Water Hollies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fothergilla major</td>
<td>False Dogwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex aquifolium x ilex cornuta</td>
<td>Hybrid Hollies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus mume</td>
<td>Japanese Apricot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyracantha koidzumii</td>
<td>Firethorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornus spp.</td>
<td>Dogwood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Utility Right Of Way**

The maximum distance of high voltage transmission lines does not apply to transmission lines under 1,200 volt. The maximum distance of high voltage transmission lines is required to be at least 35 feet from any building, tree, shrub or vine that provides access for utility lines to be installed in and above utility lines, and includes your lawn area. There is no maximum distance for high voltage transmission lines.

**Tall Zone (3)**

The zone is for large types of trees that grow no more than 40 feet in height, but you should consider your neighbors’ views and landscaping. Plant large trees at least 25 feet away from the house for proper root development and to prevent tree damage to your house or building. High trees could also be an attraction to nesting birds or hawks.

**Medium Zone (2)**

The zone is for trees that grow no more than 20 feet in height and require your leaves. Landscaping should dominate the frame of your house instead of hiding from view. Select trees first, then plant shrubs to complement the trees. Trees 10 feet or more than 40 feet in height are recommended at the base of the tree to aid in preventing and reducing power lines or trees that could topple into the lines during severe storms.

**Low Zone (1)**

Trees are on the right of way adjacent to the low zone. A utility representative can assist in determining if high voltage transmission lines require a larger clearance area. A utility representative can assist in determining if high voltage transmission lines require a larger clearance area.

**Zoning and Distribution Lines**

Distribution lines feed electricity to homes and businesses. The recommended planting list is intended for use near major distribution lines.

Plants can be used to provide energy savings. Deciduous trees planted on the south and southwest sides of your home will provide shade. Evergreens planted on the north and northwest sides prevent winter winds.

Begin by sketching your yard. Include all structures, above and below ground, and existing plants. Identify the area where you want to plant trees. Different trees need different mature height and spread. You can determine whether something will fit in your yard by planting a small tree in the proposed spot.

**Questions to Ask Before Selecting A Tree**

What will be the size of the tree at maturity? Does the tree have room to grow in its allotted area or height?

Will the tree serve as a windbreak, sound or spreading crowns?

Will the tree become an undesirable tree or shrub? Will it generate large amounts of leaves that will litter your yard?

Will the tree serve as the focal point in your plan?

Is the tree strong enough to bear loads of ice and snow without breaking?

Is the tree relatively resistant to insects and disease?

Is the size of the tree compatible with your house’s architecture? For example, some very large trees can make a small house appear out of proportion or give it a lopsided look.

What effect could the tree have on your utilities? It could be an inconsiderate choice. Would it shade your neighbor’s house or hangover your property?

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