UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

A NEW WAY TO PLANT TREES

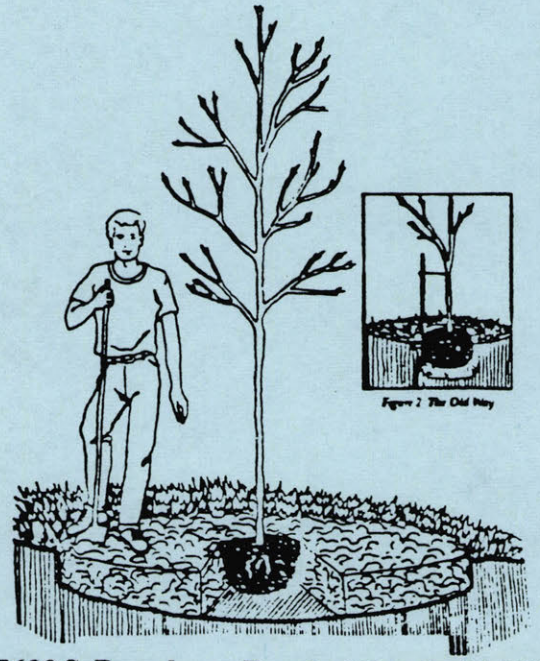
New research on the best way to plant trees is from G.W. Watson at Michigan State University. As a result of this study, the American Forestry Association and the National Urban Forest Council have drawn up new guidelines for planting trees.

According to the study, heavy equipment use in home and office construction today has resulted in more compacted and less fertile soils. Water and oxygen cannot penetrate deeply and neither will tree roots.

The result is that new guidelines suggest that a gardener should mark out an area that is five times the diameter of the rootball. The soil within this area should be worked up using a Rototiller or shovel. The rootball should be set on undisturbed soil in a planting hole in the center of the area, so that the upper surface of the rootball is level (slightly higher in wet soils) with the surrounding soil surface.

This planting method substantially increases the volume of aerated surface soil, which is the goal. The rootball would always rest on undistrubed subsoil, which eliminates the chance that it will settle later.

The new guidelines also say that water-holding berms should be knocked down in the winter for best drainage and in the summer a layer of mulch serves well to conserve water within the watering area.Always keep weeds and grass lawns away from the trunks as they compete for water and nutrients.



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EUREKA TREE COMMITTEE
BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT - TREE GIVE-A-AWAY

MISSION: To provide some free trees to BEAUTIFY EUREKA and to inspire residents to PLANT MORE TREES!

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

The performance of a landscape tree depends a great deal on how it is planted. Please remember these points.

1. If the tree is to mature in the landscape, it will have to grow in the soil of the planting site.
2. Elaborate preparation of the soil in the planting hole merely provides another artificial container for the tree, and will not ensure continued growth of your tree.
3. If the soil at the planting site will not satisfactorily sustain a tree, extensive conditioning and modification will be needed in a large area.
4. Roots grow and develop in moist soil where oxygen is available. Roots grow little or not at all in dry soil or in soil that is saturated with water and has no oxygen.
5. Trees will have shallow roots if planted on shallow soils with impervious layers or underlying shallow water tables.

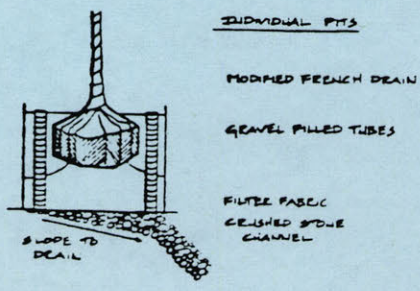
Digging the hole: Plant the young tree high, whether it is bareroot, balled or container grown. Dig the hole no deeper than necessary - approximately 2 inches less than the depth of the soil in the container or the depth of the soil ball. Planting the tree deeper or in loose soil may lead to future crown rot problems. Loose soil in the bottom of the hole will settle, causing the tree to be planted deeper than intended. It may be necessary to dig deeply to break up soils that have been compacted by construction. When digging compacted soils, mix organic matter to a very large circle around the tree site. Do not create a "flower pot effect" by adding organic matter to a small hole which will just fill up with water and drown the tree. Gravel drains can be created for severe drainage problems, see picture.

Competition from Turf: Keep turf away from the trunk as far as you can. The growth of a young tree will be retarded by turf. A 30 inch minimum bare space between tree and turf will also protect the trunk from lawnmowers and weed whackers.

Watering and fertilization: The basin for watering the newly planted tree should be so constructed that water will drain away from the trunk. Irrigate at planting to settle the soil around the roots. Do not put fertilizer in the hole but lightly fertilize in the growing season with either a water soluble or granular fertilizer. Small amounts frequently in spring and summer are best.

Staking: If the tree is tall and wispy, use two stakes on either side about a foot away from the trunk. The best ties are old nylon stockings! Second best is green stretchy horticulture tape. Do not use wire even if protected by hose. You want the tree to have some movement to develop strong trunk cells. Do not tie tightly to a stake.

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DRAINAGE/AERATION DETAILS
SCALE ½" = 1'-0"