

# CUSTOM TREE TIMES

WINTER 2008/2009

## SERVICES

Tree Pruning

Tree Removal

Stump Grinding

Tree Planting

24 Hour Emergency Service



We employ

certified arborists

by the ISA & KAA

Licensed & Insured

Member of

NE Kansas Better

Business Bureau

## NEW TREE PLANTING

Probably the single most important thing you can do to ensure that a tree gets established, is to begin by using proper planting techniques. Planting a tree is an investment, and how this investment grows is dependent on the care it receives during planting. Many times, people just dig a hole in the ground, stick a tree in it, and expect it to just do its thing and flourish. Following these recommendations for new tree plantings will improve success:

-) Match the correct tree to the site. Think of what the mature size of the tree will be so you don't plant too close to overhead lines and other structures.

-) *Before digging*, it's a good idea to have underground utilities located. It's free, call 811.

-) Plant a smaller tree. When a Balled & Burlap tree is dug by the nursery, it loses a substantial amount of roots. A smaller tree generally won't lose as large a percentage of its root mass and will become established faster, and will usually catch up in size to a larger tree that was planted at the same time.

-) Dig a wide hole. Make the planting hole 2-3 times the width of the root ball. This will help to establish roots.

-) Find the trunk flare. This is where the roots spread at the base of the tree and it should be partially visible after the tree has been planted.

-) Don't plant too deep. If the tree is too deep, new roots will have a hard time developing due to lack of oxygen. Plant no deeper than the depth of the root ball.

-) Remove wire and burlap on the top 1/3 of the root ball and all strings on the tree or root ball.

-) Backfill the hole firmly, straighten the tree, and water it in. Do not apply fertilizer at planting time.

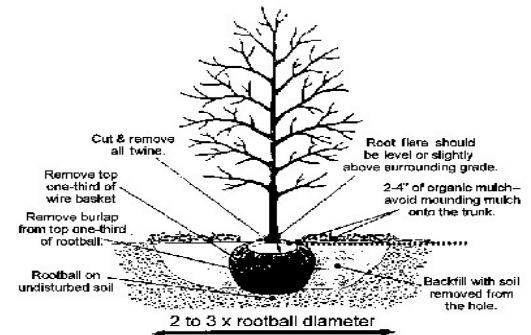
-) Stake loosely in most cases but remove stakes after one year.

-) Mulch properly around base of tree.

-) Water generally at least once a week if no rain. Over watering can be just as harmful, if not more harmful than not watering at all.

-) Limit pruning for at least one full growing season with the exception of any damaged limbs.

Warmer weather is just around the corner and we at Custom Tree Care are gearing up for the upcoming spring. Come get some new ideas at the Topeka Garden Show held at the Expocentre and stop by our booth on February 13th-15th. We will also be exhibiting at the Johnson County Home & Garden Show on February 27th- March 1st at the Overland Park Convention Center. We will also be sending some of our management staff to the Tree Care Industry Association's Winter Management Conference in February. This training will help us to more efficiently to operate as a corporation and satisfy our clients.



**When excavating a planting hole, it is better to dig 2-3 times the width of the root ball and don't plant too deep.**

Greg Gathers  
President