

## Proper Tree Selection

### Tree Placement Considerations

When purchasing your tree the location of planting should be taken into consideration. For successful tree growth the right tree must be selected for the site it will be planted at, taking into consideration the conditions it will endure at that site.

### Consider the following:

- Soil drainage - tree roots need to breathe and won't tolerate soggy soil conditions that can suffocate roots. Some species of trees will tolerate wet conditions better than others.
- Soil type - soil types are rarely uniform, alkalinity and acidity can vary, dictating which types of trees will thrive in different areas.
- Views - do not block desirable views, use trees to block undesirable views.
- Cooling & heating effect - planting deciduous trees on the South or West side of a house will help cool the house in summer while allowing sunlight through to warm the house in the winter.
- Screening - deciduous trees only screen during the growing season; evergreens will provide screening year round.
- Windbreak effect - hedges of trees can act as windbreaks against cold winter winds (usually North, Northwesterly winds).
- Tree shape / ornamental characteristics - the overall shape of the tree at maturity should be considered so that it fits well with the surrounding landscape.
- Fall color, foliage texture, flowers, etc. should also be considered.
- Growth rate - fast growing or slow growing ?
- Tree size at maturity - the overall size of the tree at it's maturity should be considered so that it fits well with the surrounding landscape
- Pest problems - any pest issues with the species of tree selected should be taken into consideration
- Litter produced - the dropping of leaves, needles, seedlings, etc. should be taken into account as to how it will affect the surrounding landscape.
- Utilities and / or underground hazards - have the planting area checked for any underground utilities ("One Call"). Overhead utility lines, cable TV lines, phone lines should be reviewed.
- Lighting effects - how will the tree affect landscape lighting, lamp post lighting, etc. when at its mature size and shape.
- If planting near a sidewalk or driveway, make sure the selected species does not have a root system that will affect those areas.

Helpful hint . . .

Planting new trees too close to a house is a common mistake. New trees that seem to be planted a safe distance from the house can end up right "on top" of your home. As trees mature they will grow 20 to 30 times larger, so it's easy to imagine the damage to structures and walkways.

**To ensure your selection is right for your landscaping needs, please visit with one of our professionals.**