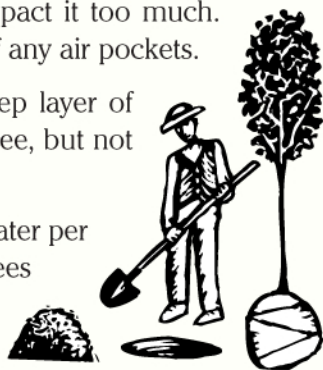


TEN WAYS TO KEEP TREES HEALTHY

- 1. Smart selection.** Trees grow fastest and live longest if they're planted in their preferred growing conditions.
- 2. Proper preparation.** Clean out all plants, grass, and other debris from a 3' wide area around the center of the planting hole.
- 3. Dig in.** The planting hole should be twice as wide as the root ball and deep enough that, when the tree is placed in the hole, the area where the roots meet the stem is level with the soil's surface.
- 4. Easy on the roots.** Remove trees from their pots or packages gently, after the hole is ready.
- 5. Set 'em straight.** Before you fill the hole, make sure the tree is being planted as straight as possible. If it isn't, add soil to the bottom of the hole until the seedling's standing tall.
- 6. Firm filling.** After filling in the hole, tamp the soil down gently—don't stomp it into place, or you'll compact it too much. Then water the seedling well to get rid of any air pockets.
- 7. Perfect protection.** Add a 2 to 4"-deep layer of clean, chemical-free mulch around the tree, but not touching the trunk.
- 8. Water wisely.** Trees need about 1" of water per week. During dry periods, soak your trees every week or so, letting the soil dry out sufficiently between waterings.
- 9. Inspect and detect.** Check for insect or rodent damage and diseases often—dead branches, dropping needles, chew marks, damaged bark, or off-color foliage—and treat accordingly. And don't forget to inspect the trunks closely for signs of borers.
- 10. Proper pruning.** Keep the area around your trees clear of grass and weeds for about 3 years after planting. During the first year, prune away broken branches and roots. Use the next couple of years to shape your tree—removing branches that rub against other branches, or are at sharp angles to the trunk.



Treatin' Tree Wounds

While you're out-and-about this spring, check your existing trees for damage. If you find any, clean 'em up with my **Tree Wound Sterilizer Tonic**, and then seal the cuts with a mixture of **1 tbsp. of antiseptic mouthwash and 4 oz. of latex paint**.

Tree Wound Sterilizer Tonic

1/4 cup of ammonia,
1/4 cup of liquid dish soap,
1/4 cup of antiseptic
mouthwash, and
1 gallon of warm water.

Mix all of the ingredients together, and pour the mix into a handheld sprayer bottle. Spray on tree wounds to the point of run-off.