Our Premise!

- Proper selection, planting, and care when trees are young reduces long-term need for maintenance and chemicals. They prolong the tree’s life, and reduce hazards.
- Trees are less adaptable as they get older.
- Learn to recognize a hazardous tree to be able to respond quickly to issues.

Tree Selection

Select trees according to your ability to water and care for them

Trees and Soils

- Know the soil and manage according to soil structure.
- Compacted clay, hardpan, and a high water table can restrict roots to shallow depths and result in unstable trees.

Tree Selection

Select trees suitable to the site for both roots and canopy

Tree Selection

Choose a strong central leader
Tree Selection

U-shaped, not V-shaped, branch attachments

Stay away from co-dominant stems

Stay away from girdling roots

Roots should grow radially away from the trunk

• Study the species before selecting it
• Cherries get 16 diseases and 13 pests in Western Washington

Follow Mother Nature’s Lead

• General Sherman is 2700 years old
• Strong central leader with smaller diameter side branches
• U-Shaped branch attachments
• Roots growing radially from trunk
• Adapted to soils and rainfall
**Tree Planting**

- Eliminate circling roots at planting
- Shave root ball’s outer edge
- Remove kinking and downward-growing roots

**Tree Planting**

- Plant shallowly so that the top root is at or slightly above the soil surface.
- This tree was planted too deeply and is unstable. Notice how roots grow upward to surface.

**Tree Planting**

- Keep mulch off the root ball to prevent upward root growth

**Tree Care: Mulching**

For established trees, mulch lightly, and keep away from the trunk.

**Tree Care: Watering**

- Water a newly-planted tree at the trunk for several years. After that, move outward from trunk.
- Try a bag or ring but check the trunk

**Tree Care in Lawns**

- Keep turf away from tree root zones
- Avoid Weed n Feed near trees
Managing Trees Long-Term

- Old trees are less tolerant of change
- In old trees, leaves have a low ratio of leaves to biomass.
- Photosynthesis is a maintenance activity, not a growth activity
- Limit pruning

Managing Older Trees

- Old trees need water too
- Old trees benefit from mulch
- Old trees offer homes to other species and serve as ecosystems

Managing Trees Long-Term

- This 9550-year old spruce in Sweden only looks young. Its roots make it the oldest tree on earth.

For More Information

- WSU Hortsense
  http://pep.wsu.edu/hortsense/
- Ed Gilman’s Website
  http://hort.ufl.edu/woody/

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