



GREENFIELD MUNICIPAL UTILITIES SHADE TREE PLANTING REBATE PROGRAM

Resources to choose the best type and location of shade trees

- Iowa DNR - www.iowadnr.gov › uploads › forestry › urban › RethinkingMaple – this document provides great information on types of trees and their best placement
- Adair County Extension Office

Guidelines for proper planting of shade trees

CONDITION OF THE ROOTS • Locate where the trunk flares out and becomes the roots. This spot, called the root flare, should be located at ground level, not below. The flare turns into the large supporting roots. They may be visible on the surface or covered by a couple inches of soil. These large supporting roots will help identify the correct depth to dig the hole. Planting trees too deep causes premature death from circling or girdling roots and increases the likelihood of the tree falling over in high winds. • Inspect the root mass for circling and girdling roots by placing the tree on its side and removing the entire container. If the tree is pot-bound and has roots circling the root mass, cut off the entire outside ¼-inch of the root mass, including the bottom, with a sharp shovel or pruning saw.

SIZE AND SHAPE OF THE HOLE • Dig a hole with a diameter two to three times the width of the tree's container. Typically, the hole should be 10 to 12 inches deep, but look for the root flare on the tree. This should be at or slightly above ground level after planting. • Loosen up surface roots and straighten out any large roots. • Keep the root flare of the tree even with the ground level. • Be sure the tree is straight before backfilling the planting hole.

BACKFILLING THE HOLE • Do not substitute planting hole soil with mulch, compost or fertilizers. • Backfill the planting hole, taking care to break up soil chunks. • Lightly step around the tree base to firm up soil. **MULCHING** • Place three to four inches of organic mulch around the tree in a saucer shape, 18 to 36 inches wide. Organic mulch, such as composted wood chips, greatly enhances tree growth. • Keep organic mulch three inches away from the base of the tree to prevent moisture buildup on the bark.

INITIAL WATERING • Water the tree slowly and thoroughly to eliminate air pockets in soil. Initial watering should be approximately 10 to 15 gallons of water or until the water stands for a few seconds. Water is critical for tree survival during the first few years. • Water two gallons for every inch diameter of the tree trunk one to three times per week for the first two years. During draught, water more frequently.

REBATE PAYMENT REQUEST

(return this form to GMU)

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ GMU Account Number: _____

- Shade trees must be planted on GMU customer's property in a location that will give the house or commercial building shade for air conditioning purposes.
- Rebate amount shall not exceed the purchase price of the tree(s) up to a maximum rebate of \$50 per tree or \$50 per customer.
- A paid receipt must be returned to City Hall with this request form.
- Shade trees should not be planted in places that could be disruptive to utility services above or below ground on the owner's property or the road/utility right of way along a street or alley.

Customer Signature: _____