



TREE NEWS

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YOU CAN USE

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SITE SELECTION

(ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND CONCERNS)

[Tree News You Can Use](#) September, October and November newsletters will highlight:

- Specific site selection parameters that should be reviewed prior to planting,
- Selection of the right plant material and plant establishment,
- Initial maintenance of woody vegetation.

Remember to always check for below ground utilities using [811 Call Before You Dig](#) as well as aboveground utilities using [Plant Smart](#).

Both above and below ground site factors should be thoroughly reviewed prior to planting a tree. Location ([USDA Hardiness Zone](#)), tree species, soil conditions ([Urban Soil NRCS](#)), light, slope, location, presence of structures, and pedestrian or vehicle traffic should all be factored into the site selection process. One of the most important factors to review prior to taking a “shovel to the soil” is site selection, especially in urban environments. Quality of the site is crucial; higher quality sites will support a long-lived, healthy tree, whereas poorer quality sites, regardless of the plant genetics, will produce a poorer quality tree. Sites in urban areas typically are challenging for tree survival. Often these sites contain contaminants and/or pollutants in the soil, as well as air, wind tunnels, poor soil aeration, temperature fluxes and reduced planting space. With all of these potential issues, choosing the best site to plant is critical for optimal growth and survival, followed by site preparation, tree selection, planting and initial maintenance.

Proper review of the potential planting site will offer clues to the stressors that may impact the health and maintenance of the vegetation planted. Understanding previous, current and future site activity could assist you in evaluating the site. Avoid planting sites near building or paved areas (i.e. homes, outdoors spaces, sidewalks), and understand that the roots and the crown need plenty of room for best development.

Some of the important site conditions to consider include:

- Soil characteristics
- Environmental conditions
- Site location
- Soil volume
- Social influences
- Maintenance requirements



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