



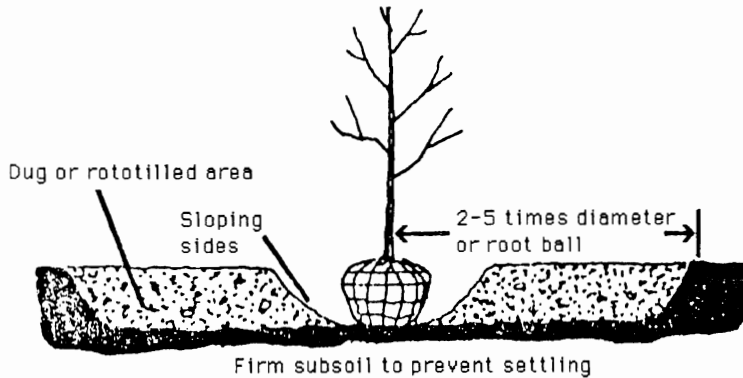
PLANTING TIPS

Potted or Wrapped Trees

Recommendations for planting have evolved in recent years as more is learned about the nature of roots and urban soils. Local conditions make generalization difficult, but here are some guidelines that reflect the latest opinions of tree experts.

The Planting Hole

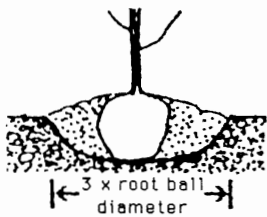
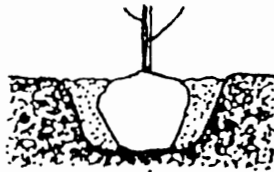
More than any other change in tree planting procedures is the new focus on the planting holes. It can be summed up by the saying, "Don't plant a \$100.00 in a \$10.00 hole!" Proper preparation will encourage root growth rather than adding to the difficulties already challenging the young tree. Here's a suggestion to give your tree a boost toward rapid growth and recovery from transplant shock.



This method recognizes the fact that most roots spread through the top 12" of soil in a wide periphery around the tree. Therefore, slope the side of the hole and dig or deeply rototill an area around the hole at least twice the diameter of the ball or container. An area up to five times the diameter is recommended if the soil is particularly compacted. The roots of other trees will not be damaged.

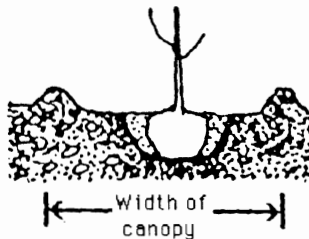
How Deep Should You Plant...?

- Under normal conditions, root growth is best encouraged by planting even with the surrounding terrain.



- When wet conditions or heavy soil are problems, raising about 1/3 of the root ball above ground will aid the spread of lateral roots.

- In arid climates, a basin can be used to collect precious water.



REMEMBER!

Before digging always contact your local utility offices. In most areas, the utilities offer to locate and stake underground cables and pipes at no cost to you.

How to Select and Plant a Tree

Encouraging America to plant a tree is a worthwhile goal, but it's only "half the story". Whether planting two trees in the front yard or one million trees in a city, the effort will come naught unless the trees are selected and planted correctly. True success is a tree in its new home that is vigorous from the start and lives a long, productive life.

Planting a tree is the ultimate act of optimism and sharing. It is the one act within reach of nearly every man, woman and child to improve the environment and make this world a better place. It is repayment of our debt to nature for the air we breathe and the joy we know from songbirds, cool summer shade or the calming beauty of shimmering leaves.

Apart from the physical benefits of planting a tree, there are also social benefits of working together to beautify the neighborhood or to improve a park. The benefits of trees are given without prejudice, and the act of planting a tree offers common ground and a natural bond among all humans.

Planting a tree is not to be taken lightly. It requires planning, great care and a knowledge of trees and their needs. Young trees will grow twice as fast when planted correctly and will live twice as long as trees improperly set out.

TREES — Handle With Care

Trees are perishable products and must be treated accordingly. Two cardinal rules will help keep your trees alive until you get them into the ground.

#1 Carry trees carefully: Transport, load and unload gently, being careful not to break branches. Always provide support beneath bailed or potted plants.

#2 Keep roots moist: Techniques to prevent drying vary. They include re-dampening the packing material found around small bare root seedlings. Bare root trees and their packing materials should be placed under loose soil in a shallow trench, perhaps in a garden. While planting, continue to protect the roots from wind and sun by wrapping in wet burlap.

Balled and burlaped or potted trees should be checked for dryness by finger probing into the soil. Sprinkle with water and store in a shaded area out of the wind.

A good tip is to buy early to get the best selection and then plant without delay. Give those trees a permanent home.

Borough Happenings

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CHAPIN ARCH

The Southmont Borough Council is continuing its efforts to renovate the Chapin Arch, located on Menoher Boulevard. The Arch, which in the early days served as an entrance to Grandview Cemetery, is in need of repair. The stones at the base of the monument are crumbling and the whole structure needs to be patched and sand blasted.

Members of Council and the Borough's engineers will be meeting with Penn Dot officials to discuss various issues regarding the Arch. Some of these issues will deal with the right of way to the Arch, maintenance, ownership, and a possible construction of a number of parking places near the Arch. Council will be working with representatives of Grandview Cemetery Citizen's Association, keeping them informed of all new phases of operations regarding the Arch and its surroundings.

Did you know? In the early 1960's, plans were made to install lights at the Arch to illuminate the structure at night.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Southmont Borough will again provide a Spring Clean-up program for residents. The schedule for the Spring Clean-up is Tuesday, May 2nd and Thursday, May 4th, along with your regular

weekly collection. The clean up will be advertised in the local newspaper. Remember shrub and brush must be tied in 3' bundles.

HEAR-YE! HEAR-YE!

Last year Southmont Borough celebrated its 75th anniversary. To commemorate this event a preliminary draft has been started on the history of the Borough. Mr. Tom Kidd, a senior at UPJ has been researching Borough information. Mr. Kidd is majoring in Geography and History. He will continue to work on the project throughout the summer and is asking if any resident has any historical information or old pictures to contact Judy at the Borough Office @ 255-3104. Any and all materials will be returned to the rightful owners.

From the Fire Chief

It's almost that time of the year again...time for the Annual Jubilee! Memorial Day, May 29, is the opening day thru June 3. You will receive a complete schedule of events in the mail. The Jubilee is our largest source of funding for equipment and operating expenses. We're all familiar with "inflation" and "tightening our belt". The fire department is no exception. The cost of equipping our firefighters, training, supplies and everything else steadily continues to rise. The cost of outfitting one firefighter is approximately \$3,000. Southmont Borough Vol. Fire Co. is fortunate to have dedicated individuals who devote a large amount of time and efforts to serve their community. They devote many hours for fund raising activities to pay for the

equipment and supplies needed. The Fire Department is also fortunate because you...the residents have continued to support our fund raising activities. Many other municipalities have had to resort to taxation for fire department operating funds.

We THANK YOU for your past support and ask you to please continue supporting your fire department. By purchasing raffle tickets, and supporting the Jubilee you are helping yourself by insuring that the best help possible will be there when you need it. One never knows when they may be the next person needing help. And as always we are looking for a "few good

men...and women" who want to serve their community. See you at the Jubilee.

PLAYGROUND UP-DATE

Spring has arrived, and with it brings the new Diamond Playground project. If you haven't already heard the Diamond Playground is a cooperative effort of the Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission, Southmont Borough, and the Diamond Playground Committee. A four phase plan has been devised to encompass the whole project beginning with the Diamond Blvd. park site determination, funding, design, and finally construction. We are looking forward to mid May for installation of the playground apparatus. Thanks for your continued support and YES, we are still accepting contributions.

The Recreation Commission will provide two summer teachers to run the summer programs. We will finally have a first class playground within the Borough. Anyone interested in helping in any way, please call the Borough office.

RECYCLING DOES PAY

Our Recycling Center is functioning very well. The drop off hours are 7:00 a.m. to dusk. The Center is closed on Sunday, and Thursdays we are closed in the morning hours. At that time we take the trailer to Total Recycling in Boswell to be emptied. During the winter months our volume decreased slightly. We are very pleased with the residents who are participating and ask other residents to get involved with recycling.

Our current garbage collection contract provides that we are given credit for the amount of tons we take out of the wastestream. In the past two months we have received credit for 4.42 tons of recyclable materials in the amount of \$141.44. This is a savings that has been passed on to you the residents.

A REMINDER to the residents, we do not recycle any light bulbs, drinking glasses, dishes, safety glass or ceramics. Also we do not recycle any flammable materials or any aerosol or toxic containers. Please, Please remove your recyclable materials from the plastic bags before you distribute them into the recycling trailer and please rinse your containers. We are asking that the plastic would be crushed when possible. It is only with your help that can we continue to make the Center work.

Again, we ask that you be considerate of the neighbors and try to deposit cans and glassware carefully to minimize the noise. Do not loudly dump the materials or slam the trailer doors. Remember this is your program, we are setting examples and ask that you keep up the good work. RECYCLING PAYS!!!

More Facts

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TREES MAKE OUR HOME MORE VALUABLE

When trees surround your home, bird songs fill the air, adding delight to our daily routine. Trees cast their sheltering shade as they moderate the temperature, quiet the noise, and clean the air. In summer, shade trees can save up to 50% of air conditioning costs. In winter, windbreak trees can reduce heating bills as much as 30%. Life is just better when you're surrounded by trees. You can enjoy the special taste of fruit you have grown. Watch colorful birds and frisky squirrels outside your kitchen window. And feel the sense of comfort and belonging that comes only from living among trees. Trees add to the quality of life which, in turn, increases your property value...up to 15% in areas with well-tended trees. Trees make our homes more beautiful and valuable, and life there more bountiful.

Dignity Destroyed! When leaders on young trees or whips are cut for early training, make the cuts only at nodes--where branches or buds meet the stem. Never make cuts between nodes. Never leave stubs.

MYTH & MISTAKE.. It is wrong to remove healthy living branches at planting time. It is wrong to attempt to balance the top of the tree with the roots. Wait at least one full year after planting before pruning. Remove dead and dying branches anytime.

VANDALISM ** Where there might be a problem with vandalism, plant larger trees with lowest branches at least 10 feet above the ground.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION.... Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 29, 1995, at 10:00 a.m. at the Borough Building. Our program this year will be at the Recycling Center where we will have a short ceremony and plant some trees and shrubs around the center. We are looking forward to seeing you at our celebration.

PLANTING SEEDLINGS? Seedlings should be protected. You might want to construct a small shelter with a lath roof to protect the seedlings from direct sun the first several years, until you move them to their permanent location. The supports should be tall enough that the lath can be moved and the trees grow. In winter burlap can be attached to protect the seedlings from wind and snow. Hardware cloth can be attached to the sides to provide protection from rodents.

People are becoming more aware of how important plants, shade trees, and green spaces are to their quality of life. By protecting against the harshness of the urban environment, greenery can make the difference between an unhealthy city and a wholesome community. Trees clean the air, ameliorate heat and cold, reduce energy costs, conserve soil, and beautify neighborhoods. They make shopping districts more inviting, enhance residential and commercial property values, and reflect the pride we take in our community.

The Southmont Borough Shade Tree Commission helps improve the management of the trees and green spaces, to protect and enhance them for future generations.

REMINDERS...

Grass cutting and weed trimming is soon to begin. While the "trimmers" work well around fence posts and other objects in the lawn, keep it away from your tree trunks. The immature bark of sapling trees is particularly vulnerable to damage. even mature bark can be damaged, so the best policy is not to use them near tree trunks or shrubs. A better way to control grass near trees is to remove the grass around the tree base and place a circle of mulch. This reduces grass and weed growth and conserves root moisture.

Another reminder is to cut your grass more often and allow your grass clippings to lay on the grass. That way you are returning the natural nutrients back into your lawn. And remember lawnmowers cause damage by scraping or banging into the tree trunk. This is the time to be protective of your trees and shrubs.

TREE SPONSORSHIP...

We wish to thank three residents for their donations to continue improving our urban forest. We will be planting a tree in honor of James Ellis Mayer, from Mrs. Margaret Mayer, and Mrs. Catherine Esaias made a contribution in memory of her husband, Donald "Ace". Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Ghezzi wish to have a tree planted in honor of their grandchildren, what a beautiful idea. The \$100. donation will pay the cost of the tree and their names will be included on the Borough plaque in the Council Chambers.

LILAC PRUNING....Lilacs bloom on the previous season's growth. The best time to prune lilacs is just after flowering, when the developing seed heads should be removed. You have up to about one month after the blooms to prune your lilac. This is the same for other flowering shrubs, such as azalea and rhododendrons. Pruning at other times usually causes fewer blooms in the next spring. Old lilacs can be pruned as small multiple branched trees, removing sucker growth and emphasizing a few larger, old trunks. To emphasize medium aged wood, remove one third of the oldest stems at ground level every year. This will produce good blooms and result in a long lived and vigorous plant.



Remove stems with saw or shears at ground level

More on Planting

Research has not yet provided a definite answer about the harm of leaving wire baskets in place before planting. The most prudent action is to cut and remove the top two tiers of wire after the ball is set. Treated burlap and plastic are more serious problems. Both should be removed. Never let remaining pieces protrude above the soil as they act as wicks, drying the soil.

Trees in pots or cans should be gently removed before planting. These materials were put on the tree to protect them during shipment and will generally do more harm than good if allowed to remain on the tree.

"A people without children would face a hopeless future; a country without trees is almost as hopeless".
Theodore Roosevelt,
Arbor Day 1907