



SPRING! The first sign of Spring can be many things, from the last patch of melted snow to the first robin, the little flowers breaking ground to show their colors, the buds on the trees and flowering shrubs and thoughts of planting, perhaps a new tree to enhance your home. Pictures below are two examples of "How To" plant correctly.

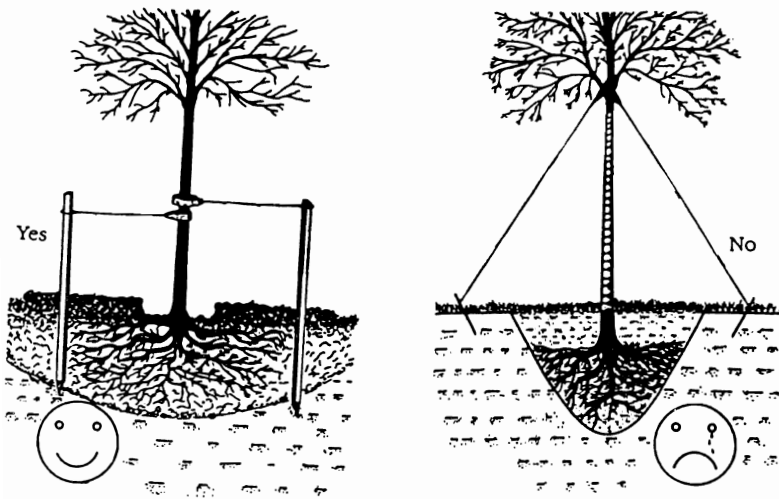
Brace trees, but not so tightly that they cannot sway. Remove bracing after one year, or two at the most.

Mulch with composted leaves and wood chips. Keep mulch a few inches away from the tree trunk, and three or four inches deep.

Use care not to wound trees with lawnmowers and string trimmers.

Do not use wound dressings or paint. Some stimulate decay.

Do not put tree wraps on trunks. They prevent the green cortex from making foods.



Prepare a planting site, not a hole in the ground. By following this example your tree or shrub will have a much better chance to grow, to be the splendid "product" you had in mind and give you many years of pleasure.

Thank You, Garden Club

Last fall the Borough of Southmont Council was approached by the Garden Club of Johnstown for approval to do a section of the Barnett Street/Menohr Highway for their 1998 Beautification Project. The section they proposed was above the Barnett Street intersection. After the Adopt and Beautify agreement with PennDot was signed, the Borough Council approved the Garden Club's project. White flowering crabapple, Honeysuckle, Red Twig Dogwood, some Hemlock and perennial bulbs were planted. The project was completed and paid for by the Garden Club of Johnstown in the amount \$3,600.00. We certainly appreciate their interest in the beautification program and are very grateful for this added beauty at an entrance into the Borough of Southmont. The Garden Club has proposed a second beautification project for the lower side of the recent project. We are awaiting a nod from PennDot, so the project can proceed.

A Special Day

On February 20, 1999 the Borough of Southmont celebrated Lydia Reese Centenarian Day. Mrs. Reese celebrated her 100th birthday, along with her many friends and family. Congratulations and best wishes were extended by Mayor Lary Koval, representing Southmont Borough Council. If you know of anyone celebrating a 100th birthday, please let the Borough Secretary know ahead of time. We will honor and dedicate a special Centenarian Day to them.



What's in a Name-IPM

Professionals have been researching and promoting Integrated Pest Management programs to control plant insects. The right plant for a site and growing conditions are the first steps to avoid problems. Choose grasses, trees and shrubs that are less susceptible to insect and disease infestation. Plant correctly, a plant growing in a container should be planted differently than plants that are balled and burlapped. Provide the best conditions for plants to keep them healthy. Healthy plants are much less vulnerable to attack by insects and disease. Proper pruning, mulching, fertilizing and watering are most important to promote healthy plants. Keep the landscapes clean of debris that can harbor pests. Remove fallen or diseased leaves and use properly composted mulch. Regularly inspect and identify potential problems before any treatment is made. Pests can often physically be removed from flowers and shrubs. Certain species of aphids and mites may be removed by high pressure spray of water. Proper identifications is the key to understanding what potential effect insects will have on your plants and landscape. Only about 10% of insects around your home are harmful to plants. About three quarters of all animals are insects.

Shade Tree Inventory

The only way to acquire information needed is by inspecting the street trees and recording locations, species, conditions and diameter of a tree's trunk. The Shade Tree Commission will be doing that inventory later this year. By updating this inventory each year the Commission monitors the progress of the community forest. This inventory helps for the performance of the program. Maintenance, tree removals and planting are decided upon because of this inventory. If you are interested, you can call Mr. Krupa at 255-6242.

JUBILEE REMINDER

There will be no afternoon Matinee, on opening day on May 24th. Opening ceremonies are 6:00 p.m. May 24th. Tuesday evening May 26th and Saturday afternoon, May 29th are One Price Day. One Price ride tickets available for \$7.00. Value pack ride tickets are 20 for \$14.00 or 30 value pack ride tickets for \$20.00. Call the Fire Department for advance sales. The Jubilee Parade is set for Thursday, May 27th. Sign up, be a volunteer. Please support your Fire Department, come and join the fun.

Borough Happenings

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Borough employees have begun the Spring clean up on the streets. Residents started sweeping gravel from the winter. When raking gravel into the street for pick up, do not include twigs and leaves. Bag your leaves and twigs and set them out for the garbage collection. The annual street sweeping will be done late April or early May. Crack sealing by the Borough's crew will be done week the of April 12 and April 19. The street inspections are done for the 1999 paving program. Bids are to be opened in May. Completion of the restroom/storage facility at the Soccer/Ballfield will be done this Spring. There are plans to build a storage shed on Diamond above the Playground, to store the snow plows and leaf machines. A small remodeling project is going on in the garages of the Municipal Building. With mowers, tractors and other necessary small equipment we are running out of room for the vehicles. With some maneuvering the Street Department will have the extra room needed, at a minimal cost.

Question Asked?

The Borough is looking into animal enforcement, both domestic and wild animals. Currently the Police do the deed of collecting domestic animals who are left to run at large. The COG, Council of Governments, is working on a plan and Southmont might join their efforts. J. C. Ehrlich does provide a skunk removal program.

Residents will be responsible for monitoring the traps that Ehrlich supplies. When the skunk is trapped they will remove it to another location, at a cost to you of \$90.00.

From the Mayor's Desk

Mayor Lary Koval has scheduled the Stroke Screening program for June 25, 1999 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Stroke Screening is sponsored by UPMC Lee Hospital Regional Care Center. The test is free and everyone is welcome. Call the Borough Secretary early to schedule your time. Diamond Playground is ready for the laughter and joy of the children. The kids are already enjoying the Playground. WHRC will begin supervising the Diamond Playground, June 21st thru August 6, 1999.

Have fun, stay safe and enjoy your summer.

From the Fire Chief's Office

To date the fire department has received donations totaling \$17,557 from Borough residents and Businesses. This figure represents less than 20% of resident support. Two fund raising activities were cancelled so residents were not overburdened. This total is very disappointing. Pledges and payments to the fund drive will continue thru the end of May 1999. If you need a fund drive application call 255-2633. To the residents who have made donations, we thank you for your support.

Jubilee News

You are invited to attend the SVFC 27th Annual Fireman's Jubilee beginning Monday, May 24th thru Saturday, May 29th, 1999. Because of a conflict with the amusement company this

year's event will be one week early. Swank Steel City Shows will return to operate the midway with 15 rides, games of chance and food concessions to please patrons of all ages. Ride ticket value packs are available. Call the Fire Department for prices. Pay One Price is Tuesday night and Saturday afternoon from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. Ride all rides, for just \$7.00.

The Jubilee Parade will be held on May 27th starting at 7:00 p.m. Beginning on Diamond Blvd. at Orchard Street, down Diamond Blvd., onto Leila Street, left onto Helen Street then left down State Street to the Jubilee grounds. Help is always needed, even if only for a few hours. Volunteers are needed. Meet many of your neighbors and friends

RECYCLING NEWS

WHY DOESN'T EVERYONE RECYCLE??? The recycling trailer has been repaired and repainted, it looks brand new. We are sorry for the inconvenience and patience. Total volume for 1998 removed from our waste stream was 56,944, or 28.47 Tons. That is nearly the same volume as last year. We would hope that the volume improves, for each ton removed from the waste stream we can cut our costs of the collection fees. We received credit for the volume removed in 1998 in the amount of \$903.00. The Borough will be accepting garbage proposals about September. We hope we can keep the cost of the annual garbage fee down, as we have in the past.

Remember, Spring Clean-up is Wednesday, May 19th and Thursday, 20th in accordance with your usual collection day. No batteries, tires, Auto/Truck parts, construction materials or liquids will be picked up. No appliances with freon. All yard and shrub trimmings must be tied in 3' bundles. If you have any questions, please call USA Waste Management at 479-4011. A reminder will be published in the newspaper.

The Recycling Center is open from 7:00 a.m. to dusk Monday thru Saturday. Thursdays we are closed from 7 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Reminder, use the outside bins provided for plastic bags. All glass must be separated. Rinse cans and plastics. Compress plastics. NO light bulbs, mirrors, drinking glass, cups, dishes and window or safety glass or wire hangers. Ordinance 389 provides for fines of up to \$300.00 for littering or placing unspecified items into the recycling bins. These items cause the entire load to be contaminated

from all over the area. Join the fun. Give us a call, give us some time. Call 255-2633.

CLIP & SAVE

On going programs and services. Crack sealing will begin week of April 12th thru week of April 19th. Street sweeping is usually done in late April or early May. Newspaper recycling in 1999 will be March 27th, June 5th, August 7th, and October 23rd, 8 a.m. till Noon only, at the Borough Building. Must be bundled. USA Waste of PA will do the 1999 Spring Clean-up collection May 19th and 20th in conjunction with your weekly garbage collection. Stroke Screening is scheduled for June 25, 1999 at the Borough Building. Brush clean-up, October. Do not rake yard waste and twigs into the street. Watch newspaper for schedules.



More Facts

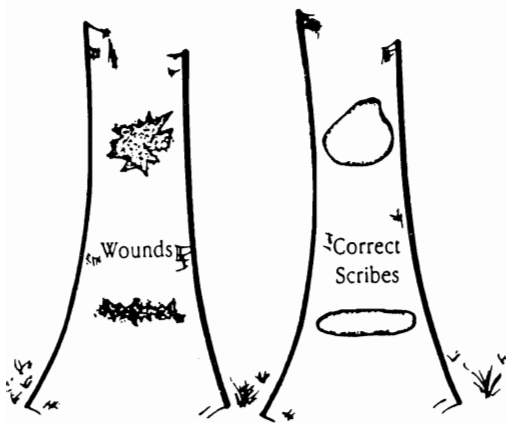
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Pruning or Mother Nature

It is usually impractical to remove every twig that may die, but dead limbs and the jagged stubs of limbs broken in a storm should definitely be removed. The first reason is human safety. The wood in dead limbs loses its flexibility and is likely to snap off, under the force of wind, snow, or ice or being stepped on by someone climbing the tree. The other reason is tree health. A tree has a marvelous way of forming a chemical barrier between dead tissue and living tissue. For example, when a limb is sawed off properly (just outside the raised areas called the bark ridge and branch collar at the base of the tree), the tree responds with its protective layer and woundwood soon grows and eventually seals the exposed area. The tree will try to do this even when a branch dies and remains on the tree. However, the built up of rot-causing fungi is so great in the dead branch that it can overwhelm the tree's defense system and spread into the trunk or adjoining limbs.

Tree Wounds

When trees are wounded, cut away the injured bark and wood. Make the cuts as shallow as possible. Make rounded margins, and do not increase the size of the wound.



Deep injections and implants repeated many times will cause serious problems.

Pruning- How and Why?

Pruning is one of the most important techniques that gardeners can perform to keep plants healthy and growing strong. Plants and trees have lovely natural shapes that can be enhanced by proper pruning OR destroyed by poor pruning. Not every shrub or tree is meant to be sheared into a neat little ball, but often people do not know any other way to prune. Pruning can accomplish different objectives:

1. Remove dead, diseased or damaged portions of plants. Good sanitation helps keep insects or disease from spreading to other plants or trees in your landscape. Prevent the problems before they get started in the first place.
2. Remove undesirable growth, such as suckers that sprout from the root of the plant or tree. These sprouts take energy from the main stems of a plant, they are more susceptible to insect and disease problems, and they detract from the overall appearance of the plant.
3. To rejuvenate old, overgrown trees or plants, remove the old growth. You want to stimulate the production of fruits or flowering and improve the health of the plant. You may want to control your tree or shrub size. Pruning is a very exacting art and you may want to thoroughly research techniques or perhaps call a professional for tips on the proper way to prune.

Fertilize Spring Bulbs

Spring arrives every year at the same time, regardless of what the Groundhog says, or what the weather looks like. Remember that flowering bulbs such as tulips, daffodils and hyacinths are now producing and storing food for the next years blooms. The best way to fertilize bulbs is to put an inch or two of compost on the area where your plants and bulbs are planted. This means you can avoid the use of chemical fertilizers. Most fertilizers breakdown quickly and run off with rain water. If you must use a chemical fertilizer choose a slow release type which will break down slowly. Bone meal treatments are not recommended as they stay on top of the soil and the smell may attract animals who might dig up the bulbs.

TREE SPONSORSHIP

Sponsor's to the Shade Tree Program added to our plaque are Bill & Linda Krupa dedicated to Devon and Corey, Mark Pasquerilla dedicated to Mrs. Leah Guarino and Karl and Linda Kushner in their own name. Dedicating a tree is a wonderful way to remember your loved ones and gives great pleasure to others for many years. Thank you all, for the success of our program.

ARBOR DAY "99"

Tree City U.S.A. was created by the National Arbor Day Foundation in 1976, as a lasting tribute to the nation's 200th anniversary. The purpose of the program is to encourage communities of all sizes to improve the care of their existing trees and to expand their urban forests rather than watch them be decimated in the face of development, natural disasters or other causes of tree loss. Founders of the program were the USDA Forest Service, National Association of State Foresters National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Operation of the program continues with financial support from the USDA Forest Service and liaison with each community provided by the State forester's office in that area. Thanks to these working partnerships there are 2,446 communities in the United States that have earned Tree City USA designation. Southmont Borough has been an active participant for over nine years. On Arbor Day, April 24, 1999, 10:00 a.m. Southmont Borough will plant three oak trees in the area of 7 Gardner Street in honor of Ms. Ellen Hoffman who recently passed away. Ellen was a very active and proud participant on the Shade Tree Committee.

If interested in becoming a member of the Shade Tree Advisory Committee, Mr. Krupa, Shade Tree Commissioner suggests you call the Borough office and leave your name and number. Mr. Krupa will be in touch with you.

Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush