Tree Care Workshop

Tanya M. Quist, PhD

Transplanting and Establishment Best Practices
What is your experience planting trees?

• Have you observed trees planted that didn’t thrive in the first few years?

• Did you feel confident that there was clear reasons for failure?

• What are some of the reasons you think trees fail?
Planting Trees For Life

1. Assess Conditions
2. Obtain the Tree
3. Prepare the Site
4. Finish Up
Steps for proper planting

1. Assess the Site
   Soil, water, microclimate, space available.

   - Test soil for texture (sand, silt, clay) and chemical properties (salinity, pH, nutrition)
   - Test for adequate drainage.
Steps for proper planting

1. Assess the Site

Soil, water, microclimate, space available.

Exotic and native plants can each find a home in a landscape when customized to the site conditions and microclimates.
Steps for proper planting

1. Assess the Site

   Space

http://www.fpl.com/residential/trees/images/tree_setback.jpg
Planning For Space Improves Safety, Efficiency and Longevity

http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/treesandpowerlines/
Steps for proper planting

2. Obtain the Tree

Species selection
Match to site conditions

The right plant placed in the right place improves plant health and reduces maintenance.
Steps for proper planting

2. Obtain the Tree

Plant Condition –

Defects above and below the soil

1. Branch structure
2. Root Girdling
3. Disease

http://Klru.org
http://finegardening.com
Steps for proper planting

Protect the root ball and canopy.

Lift the tree with straps or rope around the root ball, not by the trunk.
Steps for proper planting

3. Prepare the Site - The planting pit

1. Shallow, wide, rough sloping walls
2. Undisturbed base
3. Top of root ball proud
4. Native backfill
5. Water in
6. Mulch
Steps for proper planting
Steps for proper planting

Benefits of Organic Mulch

- Reduces evaporation
- Reduces weed growth
- Insulates soil surface
- Recycles nutrients
- Produces humus
- Promotes root growth
- Promotes trunk growth
Steps for proper planting

Applying Mulch

- Apply 3-6” deep
- Extend beyond the dripline
- Avoid the trunk
Summary of proper planting

For more information on related topics...

http://treesandhurricanes.ifas.ufl.edu
Irrigation Setup

- Emitter spacing and irrigation frequency varies by soil type
- 1 emitter = 5’dia wet in clay soil
- Create a maintenance plan that schedules irrigation adjustments
Watering Schedule for New Plants

### Establishing Fall Planted Trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks After Planting</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation Interval</td>
<td>3-4 d</td>
<td>6-7 d</td>
<td>7-10 d</td>
<td>10-14 d</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After 8 weeks, gradually extend the interval until the plant is established.

### Irrigation Schedule by Season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Desert Adapted</th>
<th>High Water Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation Interval</td>
<td>7-21 d</td>
<td>14-30 d</td>
<td>30-60 d</td>
<td>14-30 d</td>
<td>Desert Adapted</td>
<td>High Water Use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Finish Up

Traditional staking methods

Stakes should be removed within one year of planting.
4. Finish Up

Pruning

Remove broken branches.

Perform structural pruning if needed (remove codominant leaders).

Do not prune to compensate for root loss.
Questions?

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