

Pittman Tree *PLANTING* Principles

General--

- Look UP and AROUND before selecting the site (utility lines, buildings, plants)
- “A small live tree is much preferred over a large dead tree”...Old Pittman Saying
- Container grown tree is more likely to survive/prosper than a large balled & burlaped tree.
- Dig a 5 dollar hole for a 50 cent plant--wide, **not** deep.
- Don't plant too deep—dig wide, not deep so *root flare* is at or 1-2 in. above grade.
- Don't just plant at the depth it was growing in the nursery--find the root flare.
- Don't amend planting soil, don't add N fertilizer (maybe gypsum, lime and phosphorus).
- Water is essential for good survival.

Procedure--

1. Hydrate the plant well before planting
2. Locate root flare (root collar)--where first main roots join the trunk--by opening wrap or removing from container. If root flare is covered 1/3 or more with soil, reject the plant.
3. Dig **shallow planting hole** with slanted sides and 2-3 times ball diameter, **only as deep as root flare**, (if bare root, leave a center pedestal to support roots), so root flare will be at or 1-2 in. above finished grade. If too deep, add soil and pack very firm. Roughen sidewalls, particularly if in clay soil. The wider the planting hole, the better.
4. **CONTAINER GROWN--** remove carefully, open root structure loosely by hand. But if root-bound, **open roots** by hand if possible, or **make 3 or 4 cuts** vertically and across bottom to eliminate to prevent damaging girdling root growth. Never plant circling roots. **B & B--** remove *all* non-biodegradable wrap and set carefully in hole, or set in hole and pull biodegradable wrap down from sides at least 1/3. **Remove all material that will not decay.** Make sure root flare is at or slightly above grade. **BARE ROOT--** protect from drying of hair roots until ready to plant. Build a firmly packed pedestal in center of hole for proper depth for roots to spread out somewhat horizontally (not circling) with root flare at or 1-2" above finished grade for larger bare root trees.
5. Examine all trees carefully and **cut circling/ girdling roots near trunk--**or reject plant.
6. Set tree straight in shallow hole with firm bottom so **root flare is at or 1-2 " above grade.**
7. Fill hole 1/2 or 2/3 with **original, un-amended excavated soil** (normally with no compost, but sometime with gypsum, lime and phosphorous, but no Nitrogen fertilizer). Work as necessary to avoid any air pockets. Save Nitrogen fertilizer for addition the second year.
7. Water thoroughly (optional, depending on weather and season).
8. Finish backfilling with original soil and pack lightly.
9. Build a “water retention ring” 2-3" high and outside of the planting hole.
10. Water thoroughly (optional, depending on weather and season).
11. Add 3-5" of organic mulch as a “donut” 6 inches from the trunk and beyond water ring. **Do not pile mulch over root flare**—no “*Volcano*” (this encourages adventitious, weak roots)
12. Stake *only if necessary* (maintain some trunk movement) but add a base guard. Do not add tree wrap.
13. Minimize pruning, primarily only damaged or undesirable limbs to develop proper structure. Remove or shorten limbs 1/3 or larger than main trunk. **Never top or cut terminal**—encourage a primary leader.
14. After the first year, destroy the water retention ring (rake away from root flare) and remove any stakes or supports.

Pittman Tree *PRUNING* Principals

When—

- Major is best in winter, or mid summer.
- For slow re-growth, is best in mid summer.
- Never in early spring or fall. (See chart on back page.)

Why— Make sure you *know* WHY

- To remove dead, diseased branches
- To remove crossed branches
- To remove suckers
- To correct defects (multiple trunks, tight Vs with included bark, etc.)
- To control size and redirect growth (careful !)
- For beauty or to increase flowering (careful !)
- To rejuvenate old trees (careful !)
- To limb up

Never, never, never top or hat-rack ! Never cut main branches and leave stubs—they are ugly and cause weakly attached limbs to grow suckers as "pom-poms". Many arborists say that topping is the worst thing you can do for the health of a tree.

Don't participate in "Crape Murder"--*never top !* If you err, under-prune Crape Myrtle. Maximum cuts are pencil diameter. Shape, don't butcher. Limb up to expose bark. Thin out as necessary. Remove suckers. Wait till late March to do light pruning.

How—*A good pruning job is like a good haircut—it should be hardly noticed !*

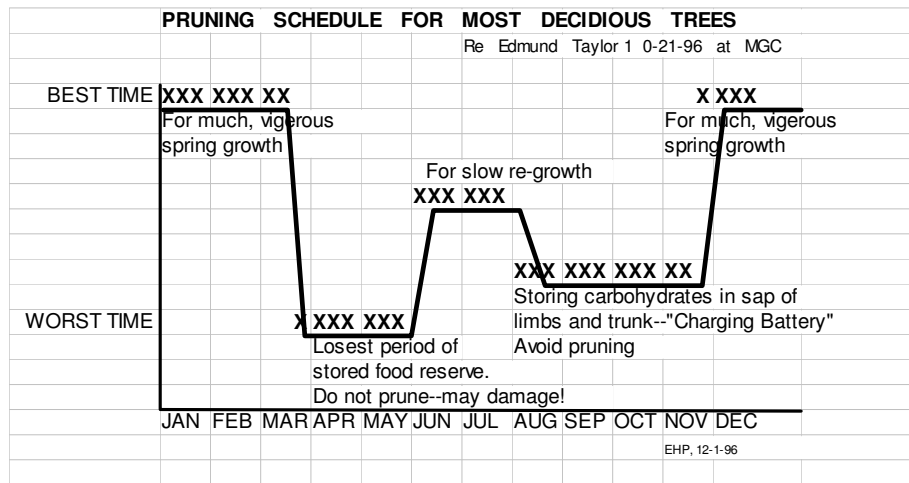
Follow the 1/3 Rules for Pruning Trees:

1. Never remove more than 1/3 of crown
 2. Encourage side branches that form angles 1/3 above vertical (10:00 and 2:00 o'clock positions)
 3. Main side branches should be less than 1/3 the diameter of the main trunk.
 4. Limb up from ground 1/3 tree height.
- Remove large limbs by 3 cuts to avoid tearing bark down the trunk. (1) A shallow cut under limb a foot or so out from trunk, (2) on top side further out a few inches to fell the limb completely, (3) make a clean cut just *barely outside* the "branch collar" (the rough, corky ring of raised bark in and around the crotch), making a *round* cross-section cut, not elongated. Leave no stub.
 - Always cut just outside the “branch collar”. (With topping or "hat racking", there is no collar, so little or no callus tissue will form to close the wound.)
 - Avoid / eliminate narrow crotch, tight V branches with “included bark”, i.e. where there is no “branch collar”. These are weakly connected branches
 - Omit wound dressing, except for aesthetics.

Tools--

- Hand pruners for up to about 1/2 inch. Use shear type; avoid anvil type.
- Lopping shears for 1 inch or so. Position blade toward inside.
- Pruning saw for larger limbs. Handle chain saw with care.

See chart: "Pruning Schedule for Most Deciduous Trees" on back page



If you love trees and think they are important, you should consider joining and supporting the following organizations:

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club (\$25)

Jim Bagwell, Treasurer, 123 Sugarmill Ln., Moore, SC 29369

Trees Spartanburg (division of SPACE)

Co Irwin, Coordinator, PO Box 18168, Spartanburg 29318

The National Arbor Day Foundation (\$15)

100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410

Scenic America (\$20)

21 DuPont Circle, Washington, DC 20036

...and take the **Master Gardener** course

Call Mr. Joe Maple, 576-3319 or Clemson Extension 596-2993

...and, of course, support Hatcher Garden

-- Think trees --

Henry Pittman, Pittman Gardens,
579-0532 January 2005

Good Trees for Planting in the Spartanburg Area

Think trees !	Supply oxygen	Absorb CO ₂	Condition the Air
Provide shade	Trap dust/pollen	Stabilize soil	Prod. food/shelter
Block sound	Moderate winds	Give privacy	Camouflage eye-sores

Large Growing Trees

<i>Arborvitae 'Green Giant'</i>	Thuja 'Green Giant'	Pyramidal evergreen
<i>Baldcypress</i>	Taxodium distichum	Screen, shade (knees in drains)
<i>Cedar, Eastern Red 'Brodie'</i>	Juniperus virginiana	Screen (bagworms)
<i>Cryptomeria 'Yoshino'</i>	Cryptomeria japonica	Pyramidal evergreen
<i>Cypress, Leland</i>	Cupressocyparis	Screen (bag worms?)
<i>Elm, Chinese 'Lace Bark'</i>	Ulmus parvifolia	Mottled bark
<i>Ginkgo</i>	Ginkgo biloba	Fall color (gawky young, female odor)
<i>Gum, Black (Tupelo)</i>	Nyssa sylvatica	Fall color
Sweetgum	Liquidambar	Fall color (balls unless Rotundiloba)
<i>London Planetree</i>	Platanus x acerifolia	Shade, 2 balls (Sycamore=anthracnose)
<i>Magnolia, Southern</i>	Magnolia grandiflora	Specimen (huge!), flowers
<i>Maple, Red (Oct. Glory, Red Sunset, Autumn Flame)</i>	Acer rubrum and cultivars	Fall color, shade, long life (Don't overuse)
<i>Maple, Sugar 'Legacy'</i>	Acer saccharum	Fall color (dense), long life
<i>Oak (Willow, White, Nuttall)</i>	Quercus phellos, alba, nuttallii	Shade, long life (very noble)
<i>Poplar, Yellow /Tulip</i>	Liriodendron tulipifera	Shade
<i>Zelkova</i>	Zelkova serrata	Vase shape like Am. Elm

Small & Medium Growing Trees

<i>Birch, River ('Heritage')</i>	Betula nigra	Specimen (New = 'Dura-Heat')
Cherry (Kwanzan, Yoshino, Okame)	Prunus serrulata, P x yedoensis, P 'Okame'	Flowers (insects)
Crape Myrtle (many cultivars--lg & small)	Lagerstroemia indica	Flowers, year-round features (suckers) Don't overprune !!!
Dogwood, Flowering	Cornus florida ('rubra')	Flowers, specimen (anthracnose)
Dogwood, Kousa	Cornus kousa	Flowers, specimen
<i>Fringetree, White and Chinese</i>	Chinanthus virginicus and retusus	Flowers, aroma
Golden Raintree / Chinese Flametree	Koelreuteria paniculata / K. bipinnata	Flowers, seed pods spring/fall
Holly (native, Foster, Savannah, Burford)	Ilex opaca group	Evergreen screen, specimen
Maple, Japanese (green, Bloodgood, dissectum)	Acer palmatum (dissectum)	Specimen, fall color, afternoon shade
Maple, Paperbark, Trident, Shantung	Acer griseum, buergerianum, truncatum	Specimen, afternoon shade
Pear, Bradford or Aristocrat??	Pyrus calleryana 'B' or 'A'	Flowers, specimen (narrow crotch problem)
Redbud, Eastern	Cercis canadensis	Flowers
Sourwood	Oxydendrum arboreum	Flowers, seed heads, fall color (avoid wet)
Yellowwood	Cladrastis kentukea	Flowers, specimen

Note: *Italics Bold* = Mike Dirr's "Noble Trees"

Know: Mature size, Normal shape, Evergreen or Deciduous, cultural requirements

Locate: For House Shade--15-25 feet on SW side. Under/Near Power Lines--Small trees only