

Spruce up for Spring!

Landscaping adds to property resale values

Landscape trees and shrub are one of the wisest investments you can make in your property, increasing its resale value by as much as 15 percent while adding beauty, privacy, shade, fruit and flowers.

Spring is the time when most people plant, when garden centers start filling up with old favorites and new varieties to titillate the imagination and pocketbook. Sadly, many people will spend good money on good trees and shrubs this spring, only to lose them through improper planting and cultivation.

You can avoid throwing your hard-earned money down a hole following some simple rules. Here are 10 tips from Ross Daniels, Inc., makers of the Ross Root Feeder.

1. Buy Wisely: Landscape plants are a lifetime investment. Always buy from a reputable nursery or garden center where you can get professional advice and service.

2. Choose the Spot Carefully: A misplaced tree or shrub can become a liability later on and have to be relocated or even destroyed. A tree that overhangs the house will clog gutters with leaves every fall. Roots can invade drain fields, crack walks, and pierce foundation walls, causing expensive damage. Leave room behind foundation shrubs to paint, put up screens, etc.

3. Visualize: Place stakes in intended planting spots and look at them from several angles. They'll help you imagine how trees and shrubs will look after planting and as they mature.

4. Prune for Balance: With all woody plants, trim off any broken or twisted roots and the ends of large roots to encourage branching.

The foliage of all woody plants except evergreens should be pruned by one quarter to one third at planting time.

5. The All Important Hole: A planting hole should be twice the width of a tree's rootball and as deep, but no deeper. Set the rootball on undisturbed soil or it will settle and end up lower than the general landscape. When refilling the hole, put the topsoil where it will do the most good - at the bottom - and subsoil closer to the top.

6. Stake for Support: Trees with trunks two or more inches in diameter should be supported with a pair of wooden stakes driven into the ground on either side just beyond the rootball. Fasten with wire or rope and protect the trunk from abrasion with a section of old garden hose.

7. Root Feed & Water: Feed and water thoroughly after planting. A Ross Root Feeder can be used to inject water and a special tree and shrub starter solution directly into the soil. This will help reduce transplant shock while conserving water and promoting vigorous root growth. Ross also offers starter tablets which can be dropped directly into the planting hole.

8. Wrap for Protection: Tender bark is susceptible to sunburn and damage from gnawing rodents. Young trees should be protected with Ross Daniels Tree-Gard, a reusable flexible plastic wrap.



9. Mulch for Water Retention: Two to four inches of wood chips, pine bark or needles, grass clippings, or compost will keep moisture in, maintain even soil temperature, protect shallow-rooted plants and add nutrients to the soil as it decomposes. Mulch is attractive in the garden, giving it a well-manicured look.

10. Deep-Water Often: Water

weekly throughout the first season using the Ross Root Feeder and feed regularly with Ross fertilizer tablets.

Ross Daniels' new "Tree & Shrub Planting Guide" is available free of charge. Send a stamped, self-addressed, business-size envelope to Planting Guide, Suite 508, 386 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016.

Celebrate Arbor Day in PA

Friday, April 29, has been set aside as Arbor Day in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Across the state, members of the Pennsylvania Nurserymen's Association will be conducting tree planting ceremonies in conjunction with schools, parks and communities to commemorate this event. In addition to Pennsylvania, many states have proclaimed the last Friday in April as the official observance of Arbor Day.

J. Sterling Morton, who later served as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, began Arbor Day in Nebraska on April 10, 1872. After many years of hard work, he was able to convince the Nebraska Legislature of the importance of trees. In 1940, Mr. Edward H. Scanlon, Editor and Publisher of "Trees Magazine" conceived the idea of a national Arbor Day; the object being to counteract the indifference many people had to the importance of trees. Today every state and U.S. possession observes Arbor Day.

Trees have always played an

important role within our history. In various parts of the world in ancient times, there were many superstitions and religious beliefs regarding trees and the spirits which inhabited them. Even today several cultures believe that certain trees possess spirits and are dangerous to climb or cut down.

In modern day America, homeowners are learning the money saving effects trees have on their electric bills by providing shelter from winds and cool shade from the sun. Whether it helps control land erosion or serves as a home for wildlife, the tree is an important part of man's environment and should be respected as such.

The Pennsylvania Nurseryman's Association is a non-profit professional trade association dedicated to serving the needs of the nursery-landscape garden center-grower industry. For more information contact the Pennsylvania Nurserymen's Association, Inc., 1924 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102, (717) 238-1673.

Kingston Twp. clean-up planned

The Kingston Township Board of Supervisors, at a Special Meeting held March 31, approved the scheduling of Spring Clean Up for May 2 through May 7. Hours will be from Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Clean Up will be held at the East Center Street Maintenance Building in Shavertown. The Clean Up is open to Township residents only.

The Board also approved the acceptance of a contract with Waste Reduction and Recycling Enterprises of Wilkes-Barre to furnish 25 30-cubic yard dumpster containers for Spring Clean Up.

Only residents of Kingston Township may take part in the clean-up. Residents will be required to show proof of residency through a valid Pennsylvania Drivers License.

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