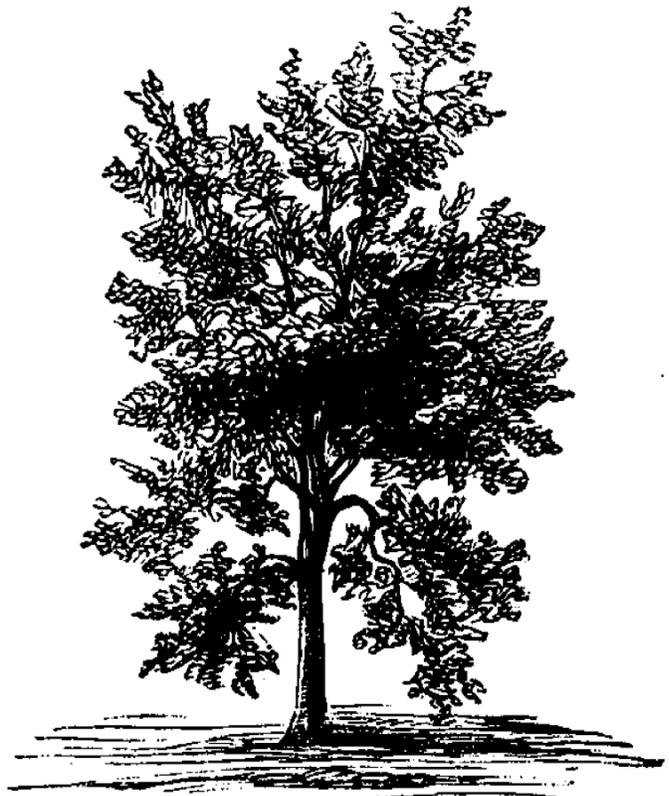


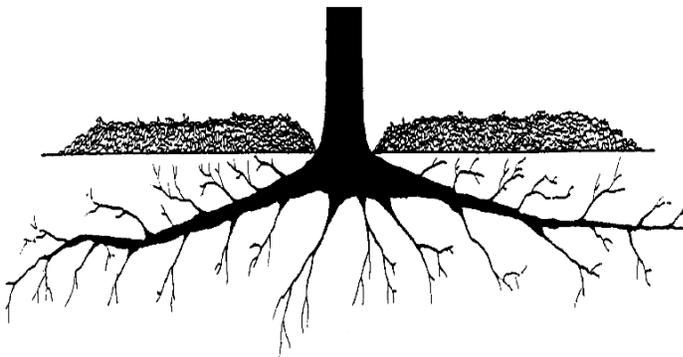
Plant Health Care Recommendations for Young Trees

Young trees add the potential for grandeur to the landscape. However, while these plants are becoming established in your landscape, they need special care. The highest loss rates in a landscape are within the first three years of planting while the root system grows from the root ball into your soil. Most of these losses can be prevented by following this Bartlett young tree establishment plan.

The Bartlett young tree establishment program consists of six phases: proper irrigation, mulching, root collar excavation, pruning, pest management and fertilization. Applying water at the proper time, in the right location and in the proper amount is the most critical factor in the survival of recently transplanted trees and shrubs. Water needs to be applied both within the original root ball and in the surrounding soil. Too little or too much water are both harmful to the plant. Moisture levels should be monitored every few days either



by collecting a sample from beneath the surface or by installing a tensiometer to measure soil moisture.



Properly applied mulch will conserve soil moisture and provide a better environment for roots to grow in. Mulch should be 2-4" thick from near the trunk to the dripline.

Smaller areas may provide some benefits. Mulch should never be in contact with the trunk.

A root collar inspection should be done on all newly planted trees. When soil or mulch contacts the trunk, too much moisture can be held next to the bark, leading to decline and disease. If the tree was recently transplanted and is deep, it should be replanted higher. For older trees a root collar excavation with removal of the soil or mulch from around the trunk should be conducted. Examining the root collar prior to planting and planting at proper depths will eliminate the need for frequent root collar excavations.

Pruning at the time of transplanting should be limited to removal of dead, diseased, dying and broken limbs. Since a tree's energy comes from leaves, few if any live branches should be pruned, maximizing the number of leaves. After one or two years, corrective pruning should be started. This entails the removal of all V-crotches and other crossing and weak branches. Corrective pruning should be repeated every year or two so that the tree will have the proper structure to resist storm damage. An additional benefit of training trees while they are young is that all the pruning wounds will be small, thus they will close quickly and resist infection by decay organisms.

Pest management is important for small trees since they cannot afford to lose many of their leaves or branches to pests. The MoniTor® Integrated Pest Management provides regular inspections and treatment for small trees. Pests are maintained at levels which do not harm the plants using cultural, biological and/or chemical treatments.

Young plants respond rapidly to Boost® fertilization. Boost® provides adequate amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium to encourage rapid root and shoot growth. There are also essential microelements to keep young plants healthy. Fertilization is the most cost effective way to turn your small plants into large ones.

By following this six phase plan your young trees will have the best chance to survive the move from the nursery to your yard and continue to grow into healthy mature plants.

Estimated Transplant Establishment Period

