

*"To exist a nation, to prosper as a state,
and to live as a people, we must have trees."*

- Theodore Roosevelt



Torrington Tree Maintenance

PLANNING



Most complaints people have with urban trees around homes & businesses could have been addressed beforehand through proper planning. Consider the slogan, "Right Plant—Right Place". There is a tree suitable for nearly every situation, the point is knowing which tree to use. Selecting the right tree can avoid having disfigured trees around utility lines, buckled sidewalks, blocked signage, heavy fruit drop in pedestrian areas or even the death of an expensive plant. In Torrington new residential street trees are to be planted outside the right of way to avoid conflicts with roads and sidewalks.

A couple of websites that can help in selecting the appropriate tree for a specific location are:

<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/Plants/index.html> or
<http://www.arborday.org/trees/righttreeandplace/>

Once the right tree is selected, it's on to planting . . .

PLANTING



Planting is the easiest part of becoming a more green community—but there are still basic guidelines to be followed so your tree will have everything it needs to live a long healthy life.

- Make sure there is adequate space for the size of a tree you are planting. Place large-growing trees in tree lawns 10' wide or greater, medium trees in lawns 6-10' wide, and small trees in 4-6' lawns. Avoid planting any trees in lawns under 4' wide.
- Allow room and space for roots to grow.
- An excellent website for managing root growth is <http://hort.ufl.edu/woody/urbansidewalk.html> Another website excellent for planting tips, soil amendments, methods, and checklists is http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/uf/plant_trees/planting_trees.html

Now, your trees are planted. How do you make sure your investment lasts?

CARE & MAINTENANCE



Once a new tree is planted, the first five years are the most crucial for establishing a lifetime of health. Critical to health and well-being for a new tree: water, mulch and pruning. Utilize the following guidelines as described in the CT Urban Forest website <http://www.cturbanforestcouncil.org/watermulch.html>

Year 1	Mulch following planting	Water as needed following planting
Year 2	Mulch in the Spring	Water as needed; & Prune deadwood and begin to shape crown
Years 3-6	Mulch annually max. depth 3"	Selectively prune to develop proper form
Years 6+	Mulch annually, max. depth 3"	Prune for tree health, structure & form & storefront visibility

Water is essential to the survival of newly planted tree. You cannot count on the tree getting adequate moisture from rainfall or irrigation—direct watering of the trees roots system is necessary! At the same time, overwater can be just as harmful. SO—plan on watering once a week, particularly through the hot or dry periods and apply enough water to keep the root ball moist—10 gallons for a 2 foot wide root ball is a good rule of thumb. Always water immediately after planting and check newly planted trees for stress due to over- or under-watering.



Mulch is very important—it helps conserve water, keeps competing weeds at bay, protects the trunk from equipment damage, adds nutrients to the soils and prevents soil compaction. Never mulch at a depth greater than 3" around the tree . Keep the mulch about 1-2" away from the trunk.

Pruning is required to maintain the tree in its most healthy and desirable form. Under no circumstances should 'topping' of trees be done (cutting all the branches off the top of the tree). Topping only creates ugly trees (see the picture at the left) with many more branches. These branches are more likely to break in storms and are unhealthy for the tree. Proper pruning techniques should be followed. Good pruning information can be found at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG0628.html> As a general rule, if you need to leave the ground to prune a tree—don't! Hire an arborist.



Hazard Trees or Trees at Risk—managing an aging urban forest requires regular inspection of the trees regarding their health, condition and potential risks individual trees might pose. Cause for concern include defects in the tree—cracks, splits, or dead limbs. On private property contact a licensed arborist to assess what should be done. On public property contact the Torrington Tree Warden at (860)-489-2234.

The Case for the URBAN TREE in Torrington

Current research shows that what is good for the environment is also good for the community including businesses in urban centers like Torrington. The aesthetic environment influences the perceptions of visitors and residents of the City alike and may determine if people want to live here, work here, move their business here or re-create here. Following are some of the many ways the urban 'forest' can improve life in Torrington:

- Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30% and can save 20-50% in energy used for heating.—*USDA Forest Service*
- The planting of trees means less runoff & erosion, resulting in improved water quality. This also allows greater recharge of the ground water supply & less flooding.—*USDA Forest Service*
- Residents living in green communities report lower levels of fear, less anxiety and lower levels of crime. - *Casey Trees Washington, DC*
- For a planting cost of \$250-600 a single street tree will return over \$90,000 of direct benefits (not including aesthetic social & natural) in the lifetime of the tree.—*Dan Burden, Urban Designer*
- Trees in an urban setting absorb 9 times more pollutants than distant trees.—*Dan Burden, Urban Designer*
- Street trees cool down the City and lower the 'heat island' effect in urban areas. - *Casey Trees,*



The presence of a well designed and well used streetscape is possible in Torrington.

Torrington Conservation Commission
City of Torrington
140 Main Street, Torrington, CT 06790

URBAN TREE MAINTENANCE



TO

TREES

ARE GOOD FOR BUSINESS



Money doesn't grow on trees, but it could be said that money **does** come from having trees around your business district!

Studies from Washington State University, Washington DC and New York City all indicate that a green business district does more than look pretty. In fact, trees can do many things for your bottom line as itemized below:

- Shoppers have a higher rating for shopping areas with trees, particularly when large trees form canopies over the sidewalk and street. — *Trees Mean Business, International Society of Arboriculture*
- Visitors judge districts with trees as more pleasant to be in, better maintained with higher quality products & more helpful merchants. — *Trees Mean Business, International Society of Arboriculture*
- Shoppers claim they are willing to travel more often, over longer distances—and once arriving will spend more time in retail districts having trees. — *Trees Mean Business, International Society of Arboriculture*
- People surveyed report they are willing to pay 9-12% more for goods and services in business districts with large, well cared for trees. — *Trees Mean Business, International Society of Arboriculture*
- Street trees are found to increase the safety of motorists and pedestrians by creating a visual separation between street and sidewalk. This encourages speed reduction by 3-15 mph. — *Dan Burden, Urban Designer*
- Businesses on tree-scaped streets show a 20% higher income stream over their 'strip mall' equivalents. - *Dan Burden, Urban Designer*
- Landscaping with healthy mature trees can increase property values an average of 10% — *Management Information Services/CMA*
- Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new businesses & tourism. Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more easily, & tenants stay longer. — *The Arbor Day Foundation*
- Consumers enjoy having trees in retail shopping districts! An orderly & well maintained planting scheme of both trees and accessory vegetation produces the highest visual quality ratings.—*Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington*