

Planting, Staking, Watering, and Pruning: The First Year of Tree Maintenance

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Planting a tree is more than simply digging a hole and dropping in the tree. Research has shown that many of the tree failures seen in Minnesota landscapes are avoidable and easily corrected when a tree is first planted. Root problems are a significant source of tree failure, even 15 to 20 years after planting. Stem encircling and stem girdling roots cause major issues with tree stability resulting in large tree failure during wind and rain storms damaging property. Poorly attached branches can easily tear out or break, recognizing weak branch attachments and how to correct them can save time and money after storms. Proper planting and pruning techniques can help to establish healthy, long lived landscape trees. Learn the essentials to proper planting, staking, watering, and pruning of newly planted landscape trees through the first year of tree maintenance.