

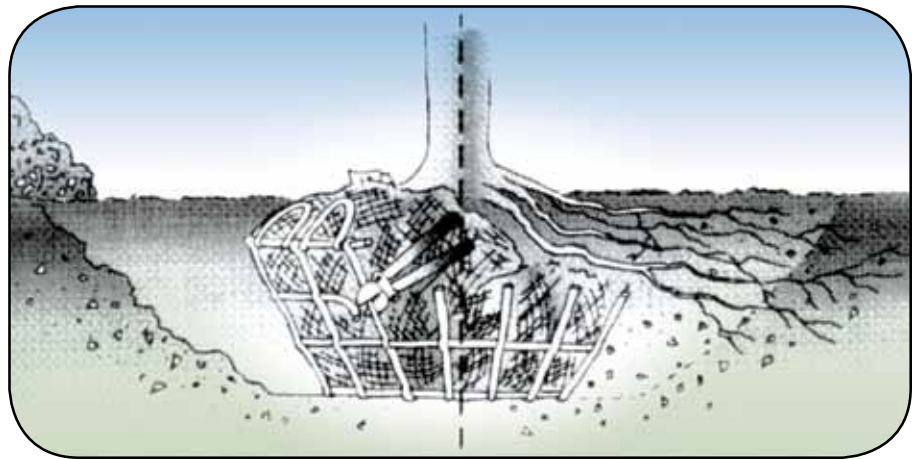


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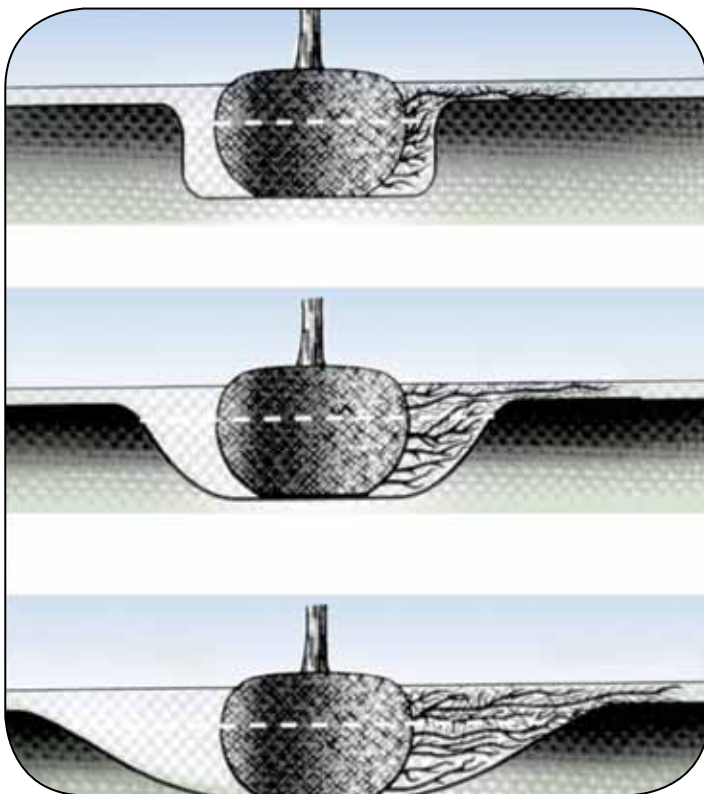
ISSUE NO. 27
FALL 2009

Poor Planting Equals Dead Trees

There is an epidemic affecting trees in our area and this one has nothing to do with beetles. The consulting arborists on our staff often are called to inspect dying trees. It turns out that many of these trees were killed by the people who planted them. What I'm referring to is poor planting habits. Many people, including commercial landscape companies, plant trees too deeply, and surprisingly leave the burlap, wire basket, and even the twine and pins intact. The tree is then placed in the ground to die. Sometimes this takes one year, but sometimes it takes as long as five, ten, or even twenty years or more. But almost certainly



Cut away the upper one-third to one-half of the wire basket to avoid future problems



Root growth from the root ball varies with the shape of the planting hole. The broad planting pit (bottom drawing) provides for optimal new root growth.

the tree will die, or at the very least it will struggle and never thrive.

The basics of planting ball and burlaped trees are pretty simple. Dig a hole about twice the width of the ball and about the same depth as the ball. Place the tree in the hole, making sure that the height of the trunk flare is about 1-2 inches **above** grade. Soil settling will reduce the height slightly. Before backfilling remove the twine and pins. Also remove the top half of the wire basket and pull back or remove as much of the burlap as possible. Backfill with the native soil that was removed to dig the hole. Tamp the soil down lightly but do not pack it down. In windy areas and/or with tall deciduous stock it may be necessary to install guy wires. If wires are installed, make certain to remove the wires after one or two growing seasons. Never use wire wrapped in garden hose. Instead use straps made specifically for tree planting. 🌲

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Cheatgrass

Cheatgrass (downy brome) is a noxious weed that can invade grassland areas in the foothills. It is an aggressive, invasive weed that was originally brought into North America through soils brought by ocean-going vessels. While cheatgrass is usually found in disturbed soils, it is abundant in the west and can invade undisturbed soils as well. Its destructive habits have placed it on Colorado's noxious weed C list. As with most non-native species, cheatgrass lacks biological predators in North America, which allows it to dominate over other vegetation.

Cheatgrass is an annual – it lives for only one year/growing season and then dies. The plant reaches maturity in the spring and turns brown and dies with the onset of summer. Because of its early season growth habits, and because it can grow to 30 inches, cheatgrass can become an extreme fire hazard. Homeowners in the foothills should clear all cheatgrass within thirty feet of their homes.

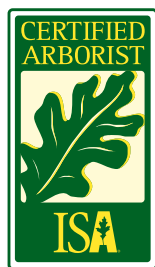
Cheatgrass can be controlled mechanically, biologically, chemically, or by controlled burning. The best results usually come from using a combination of some or all of these techniques. The key to eradication is diligence. Once you begin the process, it can take four to five years or more, mainly because cheatgrass seed can survive in the soil for years. If you need advice on controlling cheatgrass or other weeds, call our office anytime at 303-674-8733. 🌲

Tree Care Industry Professionalism

The tree care industry is constantly trying to improve its image. The old image of a tree company showing up at a customer's house in an old pickup truck leaking oil, with a shirtless crew is slowly fading away, but it is not completely gone. There are two major tree care trade organizations, The International Society of Arboriculture and the Tree Care Industry Association. These two organizations have made great strides in improving professionalism in the tree care industry over the past several decades. Lam Tree is a long-time member of both. When you hire us to care for your trees you know you are getting trained professionals. Our staff is constantly learning more about trees. We have three I.S.A. Certified Arborists on staff as well as two I.S.A. Certified Tree Workers. We also have two State of Colorado Qualified Supervisors on staff for our tree spraying operations. 🌲

For more information go to www.treesaregood.org

Always look for these logos when hiring a tree service:



Tree Marking Program Update

Many of our tree spraying customers have participated in our tree-marking program. The program consists of identifying trees that we spray annually for beetle prevention with either a paint dot or a numbered tag on the tree. This allows our pesticide applicators to easily find the trees to spray each year. We often must send a different crew to a property each year and the markings allow us to clearly define which trees our customers are trying to protect. With pine beetles marching closer to Evergreen each year, we encourage all of our



customers to enroll in the tree-marking program. The cost is minimal to have one of our I.S.A. Certified Arborists come out and do an inspection of your trees and identify and mark which ones should be protected against beetle. The cost is \$45 per hour (half of our normal consultation rate) plus .50 per tree for paint dots or \$1.50 per tree for tags. For a typical property of 30 trees on one acre this translates to \$60 to have a clear definition of which trees to spray each year, and the peace of mind of knowing your valuable trees are protected. 🌲

The Benefits of Trees

Much research has been done in the few decades regarding the benefits that trees provide. Here are the top ten benefits of trees:

- Vegetation improves air quality by intercepting particulate matter and absorbing gaseous contaminants.
- Trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in its woody parts, thereby sequestering it and improving air quality and reducing global warming.
- Properly placed trees can reduce heating bills in the winter by blocking winds and reduce cooling bills in the summer by providing shade.
- Trees planted in “urban heat islands” in warm climates can reduce air conditioning costs by 50 percent.
- Tree canopies intercept precipitation reducing the impact velocity of the raindrops. This reduces erosion.
- Leaf litter covering bare soil also captures some precipitation reducing erosion.
- Trees reduce noise from highways, streets, and neighboring homes and businesses.
- Animals of all kinds use trees for habitat.
- Studies have proven that trees provide psychological benefits to people, including greater job satisfaction and quicker improvement from illness.
- Healthy, attractive trees can increase property values dramatically. 🌲



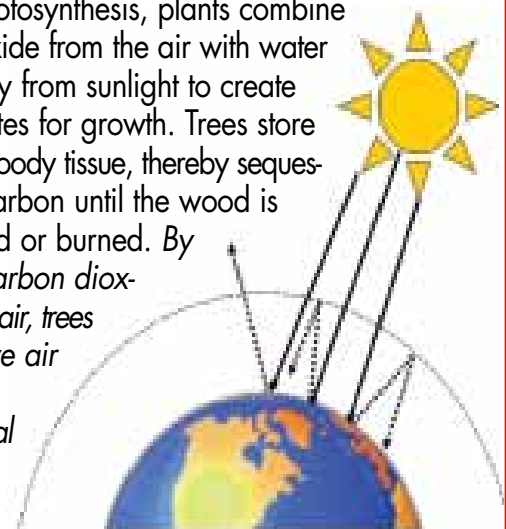
There are many environmental, aesthetical, and social benefits of trees, including an improvement in air quality, energy conservation, the sequestering of carbon, and an increase in residential and business property values.

The Greenhouse Effect and Carbon Sequestering

The greenhouse effect is the rise in temperature that the earth experiences because certain gases in the atmosphere—the greenhouse gases (such as water vapor, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane)—trap energy from the sun. Incoming radiation passes through the Earth’s atmosphere, but some of the outgoing infrared radiation (heat) is blocked. This process occurs naturally and has kept the Earth’s temperature about 60°F warmer than it would otherwise be. Because of how they warm the earth, these gases are referred to as greenhouse gases.

Because of heavy use of fossil fuels over the past century, the concentration of carbon dioxide has been steadily increasing. The increased carbon dioxide blocks more infrared radiation from escaping through our atmosphere, causing a rise in the earth’s temperature.

Through photosynthesis, plants combine carbon dioxide from the air with water using energy from sunlight to create carbohydrates for growth. Trees store carbon in woody tissue, thereby sequestering the carbon until the wood is decomposed or burned. *By removing carbon dioxide from the air, trees help improve air quality and reduce global warming.*



2009 Lam Tree Scholarship Winner



The 2009 Lam Tree Scholarship was recently awarded to Jennifer McCarty of Evergreen High School. Jennifer is attending The University of Denver, and is majoring in biology. The Lam Tree Scholarship is awarded annually to a deserving high school senior from the Evergreen/Conifer area. The Scholarship is geared toward a student who is pursuing a career in the outdoor sciences. 🌲

Long Distance Flyers

The outbreak of Mountain Pine Beetle here in Colorado is dwarfed by the damage MPB has done in British Columbia. As of 2008, MPB had destroyed about 35 million acres of forest in B.C. Compare that to the 2 million acres infested so far here in Colorado.

An interesting study done in B.C. in 2005 answered some questions that we are often asked at Lam Tree. How far do beetles fly? How did the beetles get from Summit and Grand Counties to the Front Range?

Because of the incredible numbers of beetles emerging from trees in B.C. they were apparently showing up in weather radar imagery. The study intended to find out if it was in fact beetles that were showing up in the weather radar. The study also looked into how high and far the beetles flew. The results are astonishing. Significant numbers of beetles were found a half-mile above the forest canopy. The study also found many beetles catching tailwinds and traveling as far as 80 miles in a day!

As you look at the patches of beetle infested trees in the Georgetown/ Silver Plume area it becomes obvious from this study that they simply flew over the continental divide to spread the infestation to the Front Range. Although beetles will often look for suitable habitat nearby when they emerge, it has been proven that they are certainly capable of traveling great distances. At Lam Tree we constantly monitor the spread of MPB. Call our office anytime for updated information. 🌲



Deployed mountain pine beetle aerial capture net with mountain pine beetle killed "red" trees in the background.

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