

TREES for EL DORADO



A Guide To Proper Selection,
Planting and Care For Your Trees

City of

EL DORADO

City of El Dorado Tree Board

EL DORADO, KANSAS



TREE CITY USA

Trees along our streets and in our yards provide each of us with a number of benefits often taken for granted. Consider the contributions trees make in our daily lives: beauty, increased property values, shade on hot summer days, shelter from winds in the winter and summer, reduced glare from pavements and buildings, privacy from objectionable views and noises, air purification, a source of fruits and scents, wildlife habitat, wood products and many others.

It should be obvious that trees in our community are an invaluable resource. Realizing this, the City of El Dorado and the City Tree Board have prepared this brochure for you. The information will assist you with proper site and plant selection, proper planting techniques and proper follow-up care.

The El Dorado Tree Board has made it possible for you to participate in the City's "Tree Planting and Replacement" programs. Residents of El Dorado are eligible to take advantage of Tree Board projects which help promote the "greening up" of our community.

The Tree Board is made up of five residents who share common goals and meet monthly. The goals of the board are three-fold:

- 1) Education
- 2) Reforestation of the city
- 3) Public awareness of tree care, which also supports our local tree care organizations including nurseries and tree service companies.

For our urban forest to prosper, your support is needed. Planting new trees, improved maintenance of existing trees or direct participation in the city's "Tree Planting and Replacement" programs can significantly help in insuring a more attractive and functional urban forest in El Dorado for all of us to enjoy today and in the future.

City of El Dorado
City of El Dorado Tree Board

Selecting the Correct Tree

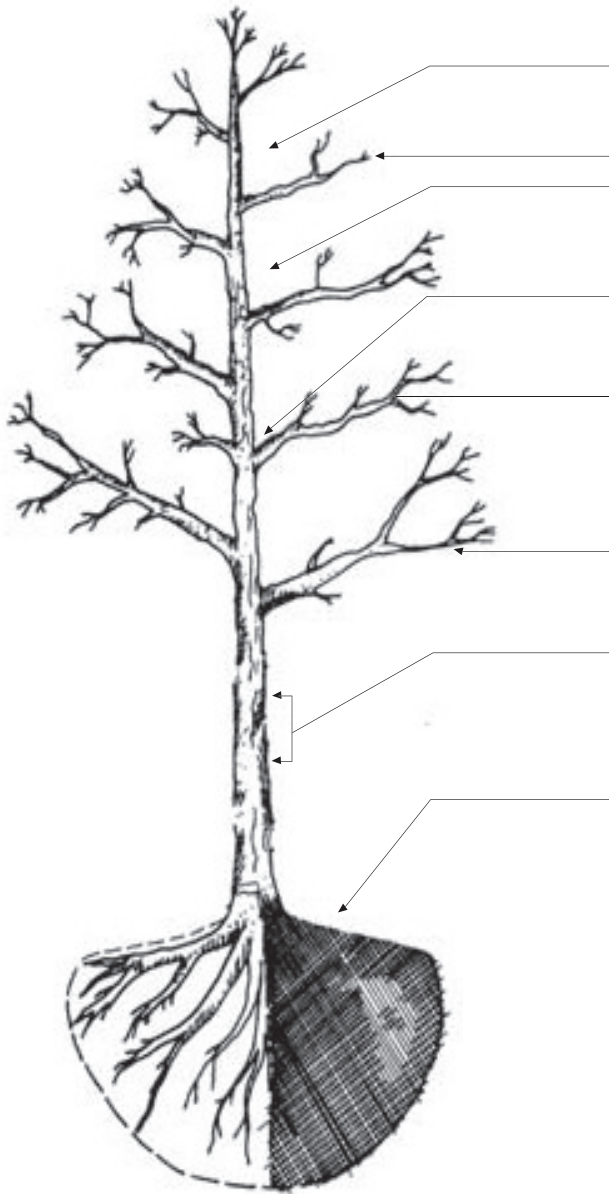
The first step in selecting a tree for your home is that it must be adaptable to the growing conditions in your area. Soil conditions such as type and moisture holding capacity are also determining factors. Wind and sun exposure should be considered, as well.

Trees develop into a variety of sizes and shapes. The illustrations to the right demonstrate the diverse shapes different species of trees acquire. The location you decide to plant will determine what size and form of tree you can use successfully.

The checklist below should help you in properly selecting the right tree for the right place.

1. Is the plant adaptable to your local conditions (size)?
2. What size plant (at maturity) will satisfy your needs?
3. What size, height, and spread of branches will the plant attain at maturity?
4. What shape (at maturity) do you want?
5. What leaf and flower colors do you want?
6. Will you plant in direct sun or shade?





A strong well-developed leader (or leaders in a multi-stem plant) is especially important in shade trees

Healthy buds

Trunk and limbs free of insect or mechanical injury

Wide 45 degree to 90 degree branch angle for strength

Branches well distributed around trunk with adequate space between and no crossed branches.

Low branches — they are temporary, but they help develop taper, promote growth, and prevent sunscald.

Good trunk taper

Height of tree is proportionate to rootball size.

10- to 12-inch rootball per 1 inch trunk diameter. Diameter is measured 6 inches above the ball

When choosing trees at the nursery, select a high-quality tree. This illustration identifies points to look for in a dormant tree 5 feet or taller.

Container Grown Tree. Avoid "root-bound" trees. Roots that circle around the edge of the container may become girdling roots. Pull the tree out of the pot to check if the tree is root bound. Before setting the tree into the planting hole, slice the root system and spread the roots out. Always remove the container when planting.

Balled and Burlapped Tree. Look for a firm soil ball with trunk securely tied. Do not accept a plant with a broken soil ball. Always carry balled and burlapped plants by the soil ball, not by the trunk, stems, or branches.

Bare Root Tree. Look for abundant root growth; numerous, fibrous small roots; good root color; and moist roots. Do not prune the crown or root system unless to remove dead plant parts.

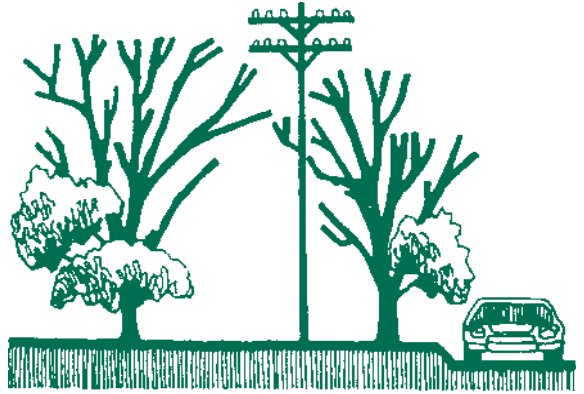
Selecting & Planting a Tree

Where Do I Plant?

Before choosing a tree, decide what purpose it will serve. Will it be a landscape accent, for shade or for screening? Then decide exactly where it will be planted — you will need to allow plenty of room for growth and to avoid future maintenance problems or damage.

The City of El Dorado has a street tree ordinance which restricts planting in public rights-of-way and near any overhead primary or secondary utility wire (16-118).

Be sure to make yourself aware of potential below ground problems such as underground utilities, sewer lines, poor soil conditions and building foundations. Above ground concerns include limited space for crown development due to buildings, utility lines and other trees. Remember, a key to good site and plant selection is to consider the size of the plant at maturity, not what the plant looks like when you purchase it. Some common problems associated with poor site and plant selection are illustrated below.



Planting under or near overhead utility wires is subject to Ordinance 16-118. The ordinance states that no tree may be planted within 10 lateral feet of any overhead utility wire, except for those that will not exceed 20 feet in height at maturity.



Planting at or near intersections can cause traffic hazards and is subject to Ordinance 16-106. Check with the city before planting in these areas.



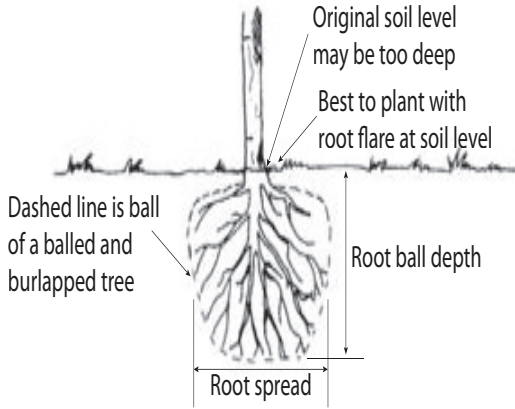
Low hanging limbs interfere with pedestrian and vehicular safety and height clearance.



Trees planted adjacent to sidewalks, curbs and streets can result in damage to both the tree and the structure and may be costly to the homeowner. As stated in Ordinance 16-116, no tree may be planted within 2 feet of these paved surfaces.

Planting Depth

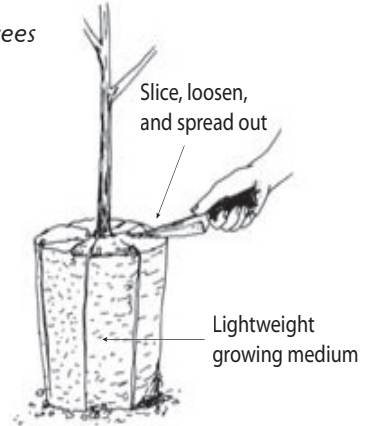
Planting depth is determined by location of root flare.



You may plant higher in heavy soils.

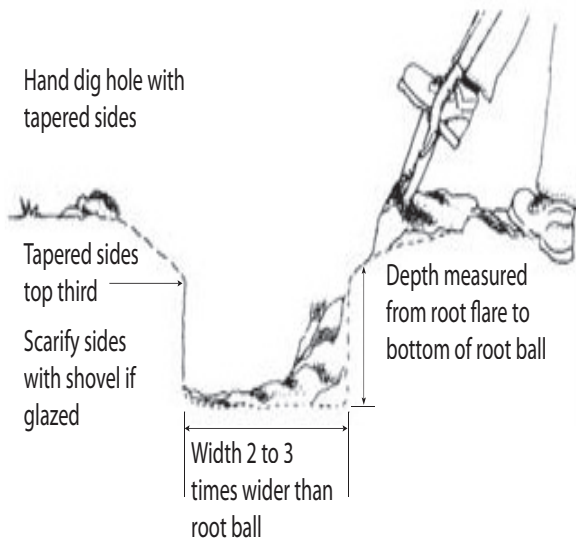
STEP 2. Setting the Tree

Container Trees

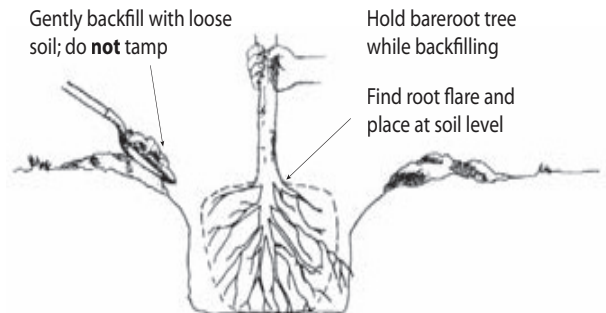


Container trees may be root bound. Remove the container, if any spiraling roots are pencil sized, woody, and brown, select another plant. If spiraling roots are smaller, fibrous, or light colored, simply spread them with a knife, claw or hay hook. Slice deeply into the root ball from top to bottom in several locations to sever circling roots on the surface and in the interior. Loosen soil and spread roots out to prevent circling. Then follow backfilling steps for a balled and burlapped tree.

STEP 1. Digging the Hole

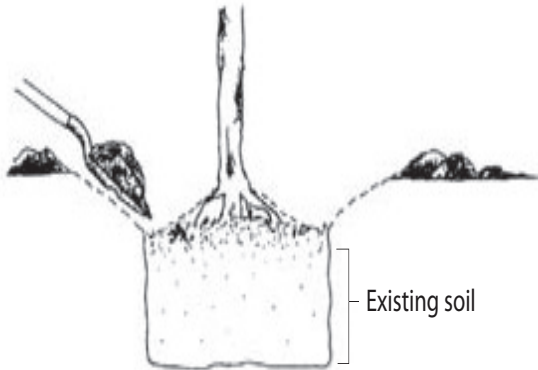


Balled and Burlapped Trees and Bare Root Trees



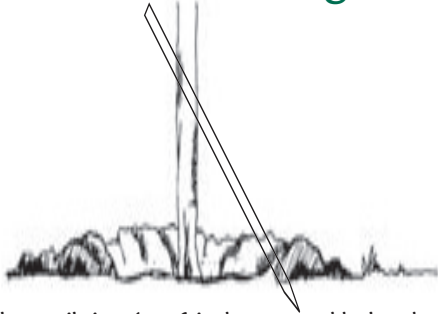
After placing the tree, backfill the bottom half of the hole with the existing soil. Then, without losing the integrity of the root ball, cut and remove all of the wire basket. Remove all tying twine and at least the top portion of the burlap.

STEP 3. Backfilling



If the soil is heavy clay or pure sand, you may consider the addition of 25 percent by volume of organic matter and mix with the original soil in the tapered area of the hole only. If the soil is a loam and drains well, there is no reason to amend the soil.

STEP 4. Finishing Touches



Place soil ring 4 to 6 inches around hole edge to create watering saucer and protect tree from mower damage. A mulch of wood chips and organic matter should be used in the raised saucer. Apply mulch 2 to 4 inches deep with no mulch against the tree trunk. Do not prune unless dead branches exist. Stake if necessary. Anchor just the root ball, not the tree. Leave staking material on for first growing season. Thoroughly water tree. Remember a bare-root tree needs frequent watering early. A container tree will dry out quicker than a balled and burlapped tree due to lighter soil. Be careful not to over water the tree by too frequent turf or landscape irrigation.

Mulch is available at the City's Compost Site at no charge. The Compost Site is located south of the East Park ball diamonds.

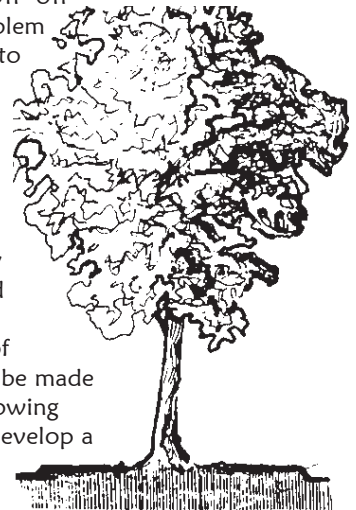
How Do I Keep My Trees Healthy?

Your new tree should receive close attention for at least the first two years after planting. Prune any dead or damaged limbs immediately after the plant has been installed. Make sure all the cuts are smooth and as close to the trunk or branch as possible, to ensure rapid healing.

Watering will be the most important requirement for your new plant for the next two years. Slow, deep waterings are the best. Moisture, 10 to 24 inches below the surface, is needed to reach all the roots. During periods of hot and dry weather, more frequent applications of water will be needed.

Later in your tree's life, it will require occasional pruning and possible spraying for insects and disease. Get to know your tree! This will enable you to detect problems later, should any develop. If you should notice feeding injury by insects, leaf problems, branch dieback or anything unusual, contact area tree experts. It is best to get more than one opinion on what the problem is and how to correct it before you invest any money.

Fertilizers are necessary for improved growth. Application of fertilizer can be made the year following planting to develop a strong and healthy tree.



Trees For El Dorado

Common Name	Height (FT.)	Spread (FT.)	Street	Uses		Notes:
				Accent	Screening	
Bald Cypress	50-70	30-50	x	x		Adaptable
Birch, River	50-70	40-50		x	x	Most adaptable birch
Cedar, Eastern Red	30-40	10-30			x	ornamental bark
Crabapple	15-25	15-25		x		Many varieties available
Ginkgo	40-60	30-40	x			interesting leaf, plant male only
Goldenrain Tree	30-40	30-40	x	x		Yellow flowers in June
Hackberry	50-70	50	x			Drought tolerant
Hackberry, Sugar	40-60	40-50	x			Ornamental bark
Hawthorn, Cockspur	20-25	20-25		x	x	Red fruit and white flowers
Hawthorn, Washington	15-20	15-20		x		Thorny, fruit
Honey Locust, Thornless	40-50	40	x	x		Many varieties available
Hophornbeam	25-40	20-30	x			Some fall color
Japanese Lilac	20-25	15-25		x		Desirable flowers
Juniper, Chinese	varies	varies		x		Showy fruit
Kentucky Coffee Tree	40-45	30-35	x	x		Large seed pods
Lace Bark Elm	40	30	x	x		Resists disease, elm leaf beetle
Linden, American	40-60	35-40	x	x		Good shade
Linden, Littleleaf	50-60	25-40	x			Resists disease
London Plane Tree	60-80	50-60	x			Same appearance as sycamore
Maple, Amur	15-20	15-20		x	x	Fall color
Maple, Hedge	25-35	20-30	x			Resistant to pests
Maple, Red	40-60	35-50	x			Fall color
Maple, Shantung	25-30	25-30		x	x	Fall color
Maple, Sugar	40-60	30-50	x			Good fall color
Maple, Trident	20-35	20-30	x			Fall color
Mulberry, White	30-40	30-40	x			Drought tolerant
Oak, Bur	50-70	50-70	x			Slow growing, long lived
Oak, Chinkapin	35-40	25-30	x			Fall color
Oak, English	40-60	45-65	x			Resistant to pests
Oak, Red	60-80	40-50	x			Good shape, fall color
Oak, Sawtooth	35-40	30-45	x			Resistant to pests
Oak, Shingle	50-60	40-60	x			Some fall color
Oak, Swamp White	50-60	40-60	x			Fall color
Oak, White	60-80	40-60	x			Fall color
Osage Orange Thornless	30-40	20-40	x			Fall color
Pear, Ornamental	30-40	10-45		x		Not "Bradford"
Pecan	80-100	100	x			Moderate Growth
Redbud	20-25	20-25		x		Red-violet spring flowers
Spruce, Black Hills	30-40	15-20	x		x	Showy fruit
Sweet Gum	60-80	30-50	x			Fall color, large seed pods
Zelkova, Japanese	50-80	50-75	x			Fall color, resistant to pest

City of El Dorado Tree Board Favorites - Bold

Utility Friendly Trees

Utility-friendly trees are small, reaching 25 feet or less at maturity. Such trees do not grow into, and thus interfere with, power lines. Utility-friendly trees are a safe solution to potential conflicts between power lines and urban trees. Utility-friendly trees contribute to the urban forest in many of the same ways that larger trees do by providing shade, spring flowers, fall color and habitat for wildlife.

Where Can I Find More Information?

1. Butler County Extension Service at 321-9660
2. El Dorado Parks & Recreation Department at 322-7400
3. Local nurseries, garden centers, and tree service companies.

Variety	Height	Width
Trident Maple	20'	20'
Hedge Maple	30'	30'
Flame Maple	20'	20'
Flamingo Box Elder	20'	15'
Kelly's Gold Box Elder	25'	20'
Variegated Box Elder	25'	20'
Globe Norway Maple	15'	18'
Tatarian Maple	25'	20'
Autumn Brilliance® Serviceberry	20'	15'
Cole's Select Serviceberry	20'	15'
Princess Diana Serviceberry	20'	15'
Snowcloud Serviceberry	25'	15'
Crimson Cloud Hawthorn	25'	18'
Lavalle Hawthorn	28'	20'
Snowbird Hawthorn	22'	20'
Toba Hawthorn	20'	20'
Washington Hawthorn	25'	20'
Columnar Goldenchain	10'	10'
Amur Maackia	25'	20'
Starburst Maackia	25'	20'
Adirondack Crabapple	18'	10'
Golden Raindrops® Crabapple	20'	15'
Red Barron Crabapple	18'	8'
Red Jewel™ Crabapple	15'	12'
Sentinel Crabapple	20'	12'
Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac	20'	15'
Summer Charm® Tree Lilac	20'	15'
Wireless Zelkova	24'	36'