

WHY DO WE PLANT TREES?

We know that animals, including humans, cannot live without oxygen in air, and it comes from plants' converting the Sun's energy (photosynthesis). But did you also know that all plants readily transpire water during the process of photosynthesis, and thus are far more superior and cheaper than any man-made machines to separate water from pollutants and toxins? Most naturally occurring minerals are necessary for plants and people in tiny amounts but toxic in larger amounts, like everything else. When you plant in soils that contain high concentrations of minerals, pollutants and toxins, some plants, such as native cottonwood trees and many species of mustards and legumes, take up water that has these toxins. These species can accumulate them in their body without too much damage, while allowing pure water to evaporate into the atmosphere to form rain clouds. It is far more beneficial for all animals when water molecules filter through plants as opposed to letting it disappear in the Sun on a bare soil, which brings yet another problem—salt flat formation, irreversible degradation of soil. If we let the plants do the job, no energy is required, no solid waste is produced, and greenhouse gas (carbon dioxide) is consumed as the “byproduct” is oxygen and water. WOW!

HOW TO WELCOME YOUR BABY TREES TO YOUR HOME

It is best to plant bare-root trees this evening, in order to keep the fragile roots from drying out. If you can't plant because of weather or soil conditions, store the trees in a cool place and keep the roots moist but not soggy. Potted trees can be kept longer if watered and kept out of frost, direct sun and drying wind (but still, as pots are so tiny, best to plant as soon as possible).



1: Soak in water no more than 6 hours. Do not plant with packing materials attached to roots, and do not allow roots to dry out.



2: Dig a hole, much wider than seems necessary, so the roots can spread without crowding. Remove any grass within a three-foot circular area. To aid root growth, turn soil in an area up to 3 feet in diameter.



3: Plant the tree at the same depth it stood in the nursery without crowding the roots. Partially fill the hole, firming the soil around the lower roots. **Do not add soil amendments.**



4: Shovel in the remaining soil. It should be firmly, but not tightly packed with your heel. Construct a water-holding basin around the tree. Give the tree plenty of water. **Be sure that the stem is not buried.**



5: After the water has soaked in, place a 2-inch deep protective mulch area 3 feet in diameter around the base of the tree **but not touching the trunk**.



6: Water the tree gently and generously every 7-10 days during the first year. **Do not hit the trees or root zone with a hose of pressured water.**

HOW TO KEEP YOUR BABY TREES HAPPY AT YOUR HOME

Hand water to check the plant regularly.

Do not rely on automatic watering system in the first year. Hand weed around the base of tree clean.

Do not use mechanized equipment around your baby trees.

Do you have animals that dig, gnaw and scratch? Then one more step. Fence in your tree leaving enough space to allow growth for specific mature size. Protection in first three years is essential.

Fertilization is not needed but if the growth is stunted during next growing season (Summer 2012, not this year) and you have been watering regularly, call to get a recommendation of fertilizer types for your situation. Wait for fertilizing until next June.

Approximate Mature Size:

	<u>Height</u>	<u>Spread</u>
Sand Cherry	4-6'	4-6'
Wood Rose	4-6'	4-12'
New Mexico Locust	15-25'	15-20'
Native Plum	15-20'	15-20'
Piñon Pine	30-40'	20-25'
Rocky Mountain Juniper	30-40'	20-25'
Cottonwood Tree	50-70'	30-50'

Take measurements of your garden, and make sure that enough space is given between baby trees and structures. Underground mass and invisible growth is just about as large, or larger than what you can see above the ground. Do not plant too close to the water, sewer or other utility lines.

Questions? Call Tomo at 564-5431 or email tnatori@utemountain.org.
Happy planting!