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More
Trees, please!

Trees are Priceless

While planting trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion, it's also good for the pocketbook. Because trees provide shade and actively cool the air beneath their canopy through evaporative cooling, properly placing trees around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30%! Trees are living solar powered air conditioners. Healthy, mature trees can be individually worth tens of thousands of dollars each. Protect your investment by hiring licensed arborists to keep your trees healthy and beautiful with annual assessments and pruning only when necessary.

Choose the Right Tree for your space and your needs. Trees are both slow-growing and long lived, so planting a tree is a big investment in both time and money. Consider the mature size of the tree when you plant it. At the nursery it's short and cute, like a puppy, but a small tree can quickly grow into a 30 foot tall

tree with a 30 foot wide canopy of branches, or bigger. If you've selected a large tree species, it can top 70 feet tall and wide at maturity. Select a tree that will best fill the space you have, not one that will need annual pruning to keep it small.

Consider litter and allergen issues - some people are particularly allergic to specific tree species, and some fruit and nuts (olives, persimmons, black walnut, etc.) will stain patios and can make sidewalks slippery. And consider evergreen vs. deciduous species for different spaces. Hot summer patios are perfect places to add leafy deciduous shade trees. Deciduous trees will lose their leaves in winter, making them an even greater choice on cloudy, shorter winter days when the lighter tree canopy will allow more sunlight through. Evergreen trees and shrubs are better for privacy screening and year-round tidiness. When making your tree choices, also consider fruit, flowers and seasonal color.

Low Water Landscape Trees



1 *Chilopsis linearis*
Desert Willow



2 *Quercus agrifolia*
Coast Live Oak



3 *Prosopis chilensis*
Thornless Chilean Mesquite

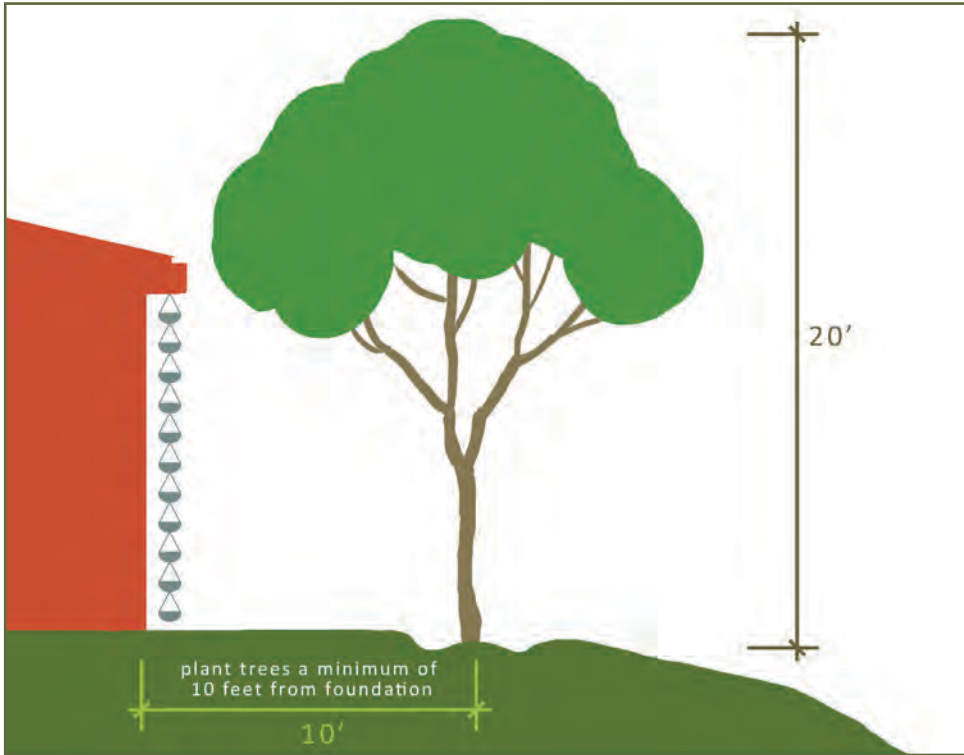


4 *Arbutus 'Marina'*
Strawberry Tree



5 *Lyonothamnus floribundus*
Catalina Iron Bark

Keep trees **Happy**



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Right Tree, Right Place

Place your trees carefully. Make sure the placement of the tree is sufficiently far away from the house. Small trees (30' wide or less) should be no closer than 10 feet. And large trees (70' wide or more) should be planted no closer than 20 feet from the house. Also consider nearby trees, other structures (like power and phone lines), views and where shade will fall at different times of the day, in different seasons. Check the firescaping regulations in your area to be sure you have not created fire ladders or placed the trees too close to the structure (see p. 49).

On the ground, pay attention to water, sewer, septic and other utilities, as well as patios, sidewalks and driveways. If you will be planting near any of these, choose trees with low root-damage potential. If you are in a windy area, near the top of a bluff or hillside for example, select trees with strong branches and small leaves, so wind will easily pass through their canopy and gusts won't topple trees or shear branches off.

Small trees are like living umbrellas, adding dappled shade, habitat and color to smaller planting areas without taking over.

Perfect Patio Trees



1 *Parkinsonia* 'Desert Museum'
Palo Verde



2 *Xchitalpa linearis* 'Pink Dawn'
Pink Chitalpa



3 *Lagerstroemia indica* 'Tuscarora'
Tuscarora Crape Myrtle



Protect Roots, Save Trees

Trees depend on their roots for survival. Roots anchor tree trunks and canopies against strong winds and earth movement. They absorb water and nutrients, and connect trees to the soil and plant communities that surround them. Landscape and construction projects can easily damage tree roots, killing trees, unless the roots are respected and protected.

1. **Avoid Heavy Construction Equipment** near trunks or under tree canopies. Equipment can break branches, compact the soil and damage tree roots.
2. **Avoid Poisons** like paints, solvents, cleaners, herbicides and other chemicals that can contaminate soil and kill roots, too.
3. **Minimize Root Shock** when removing existing plant material, especially grass, by keeping the trees well-watered. Many trees will go into shock when water is reduced, so water them regularly during construction and landscape renovation, especially for the first year after turf or other high-water plant material is removed, even if you remove surrounding irrigation.
4. **Slow and Deep Watering** under the tree canopy is best. Try using tree bags, soaker hoses, or in-line drip irrigation.
5. **Plan Ahead For Water Management** and put trees on their own irrigation hydrozone in renovated landscapes.