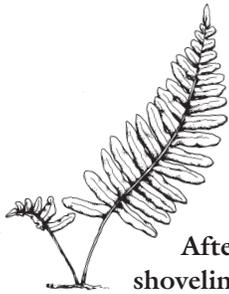




SPRING 2007
Upper Valley Edition

Green Works

Newsletter of Tree Preservation, Forestry and Land Enhancement



After all the snow shoveling we've done this month, the early daylight savings date and the subsequent longer, warmer (and melting) days ahead are a relief for our spirits—and our backs!

Our feature article this spring provides some excellent tree planting tips for the do-it-yourselfer and relatively easily handled small trees found at our excellent local nurseries. If you have large trees or shrubs to plant or transplant, please be in touch with us—we have the expertise and the back-saving equipment to make your project a breeze!

Visit us once again at the 2007 Hanover HomeLife Show at Leverone Field House, Dartmouth College on Sunday, March 23-25, and bring the completed coupon found within this newsletter to enter our drawing for \$1,000 worth of tree work at your property!

—Will Russell

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Ask the Arborist:
Customer Forum

Meet a Chipper: Sean Smith

Spring Checklist

2007 Hanover HomeLife Show
Drawing Coupon

Tips for Successful Tree Planting

Cal Felicetti, ASCA Member Consulting Arborist, ISA Certified Arborist

Tree planting is not a complicated process but there are a few very important factors that will greatly affect the long term beauty and health of the tree you add to your landscape.

There is no one best time of the year to plant—we feel it is when you find a tree you want to plant! Of course, the spring selection at the nursery tends to be better as most trees are spring-dug. Always select trees from reputable nurseries that have plant materials hardy to our growing zone. After selecting the species of tree and its location, you will need to begin the planting process.

For the purposes of this article let's assume you purchased a 1.5-2"

caliper Red maple (*Acer rubra*) to plant in your front yard. The tree was machine dug at the growing nursery and has a wire basket around it. The tree did not require staking.

LOCATION: The location for your new maple will require at least 60' of height and 30' of width with no over-

head wires and a significant amount of direct sunlight. Be sure of underground utility locations before digging the hole.

DIGGING THE PLANTING HOLE: Make the hole three times the width of the root ball and as deep as the bottom of the root ball is to the trunk flare. This provides the newly emerging roots room to expand into loose soil to hasten establishment. The trunk flare is where the first significant (first order) root comes off of the trunk of the tree. This is usually buried a few or more inches into the root ball. Untie the burlap from the top of the root ball and carefully pull the soil away until you find the flare.

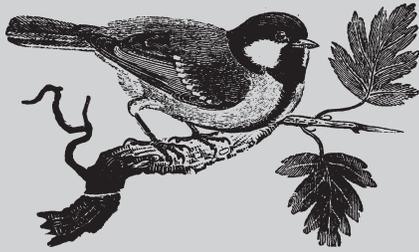
PLACING THE ROOT BALL INTO THE PLANTING HOLE: Be very careful not to loosen the tree in the root ball. Manipulate the tree by the root ball and not by the trunk. Place the tree in the center of the planting hole - double check to be sure the trunk flare is at or slightly above grade and that the root ball is on undisturbed soil.

If you dug the hole too deep, be sure to compact the soil you use

"A seed hidden in the heart of an apple is an orchard invisible."

—WELSH PROVERB

—continues page 2



For The Future

Planting trees early in spring,
we make a place for birds to sing
in time to come.

How do we know?

They are singing here now.
There is no other guarantee
that singing will ever be.



Woods

I part the out thrusting branches
and come in beneath
the blessed and the blessing trees.
Though I am silent
there is singing around me.
Though I am dark
there is vision around me.
Though I am heavy
there is flight around me.

—Both selections by Wendell Berry

—continued from page 1

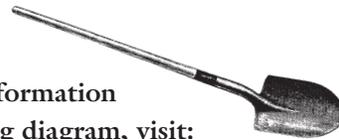
to attain the proper depth and plant slightly higher to allow for some settling. Orient the tree so that its best shape can be appreciated from the most important view angles. Be sure the tree is straight—use vertical lines from the corner of the house if necessary.

REMOVING THE BURLAP AND BASKET: Add enough soil to maintain the desired orientation of the tree. Cut and remove the upper half of the wire basket and the burlap to this point. Back fill to the halfway point and gently pack the soil—use water to settle the soil.

FILLING THE PLANTING HOLE: Amend the remaining soil with compost. This will prevent compaction of clay soils or add organic matter to sandy soils. Soluble nitrogen fertilizers are not recommended at this time. Apply the soil a few inches at a time and firmly pack to eliminate air pockets. Continue the process until the hole is filled and the soil firm. Be careful not to damage the trunk or roots in the process. Create a slight dam at the outer edge of the root ball to allow water to pool and seep into the root ball. Water the tree.

MULCHING: Apply up to three inches of mulch from the trunk of the tree to the outer edge of the dam. Do not pile the mulch around the trunk at the root flare. Use of shredded bark is preferred but other mulches will usually work fine. We recommend staking the tree only when windy conditions are a concern or if the root ball has become loose from planting. Always remove support staking and ties after the first year of growth.

WATERING AND FOLLOW-UP CARE: Watering depends on the soil type, season and amount of rain. The soil around the tree needs to be moist. During hot, dry weather it may be necessary to water daily. During rainy and cooler periods watering may not be necessary. The key is to not allow the root zone to dry out or to be continuously saturated. The tree's need for watering will decrease over time as it begins to establish new roots. Minimal pruning of dead and broken branches is fine at planting time. Corrective pruning should be delayed for at least one year.



**For more detailed information
and a helpful planting diagram, visit:**

http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/tree_planting.aspx

chippers

Lebanon (603) 448-4800
Meredith (603) 279-7400
New London (603) 526-4500
Woodstock (802) 457-5100

www.chippersinc.com

 **GREENWORKS** is provided free of charge to anyone who loves plants. If you know someone who might enjoy this publication, have them call us at (866) 683-6222. Current and past issues are available at our website.

Editor: Mundy Wilson
Assistant Editor: Jill Harlow
Contributor: Cal Felicetti
Design: Edie Crocker
Illustration, pgs. 1/3:
Betsy Brigham
Printing: Spaulding Press

Help us be Green:

*If you are receiving this
newsletter in error,
or wish to be removed
from our mailing list,
please call toll free:
(866) 683-6222*

*or email us at:
contactus@chippersinc.com*

ASK THE ARBORIST: *Customer Forum*

Q: I've begun to pay more attention to the trees in our area and would like an arborist's perspective of some of the more common trees you may like or dislike.

An arborist's view can be pretty narrow and opinionated. However, there are few times throughout the day that I fail to find a tree's contribution to the greater landscape—good and bad. The following are some examples...

- **River birch** (*Betula nigra*) has become a popular insect-free replacement for **White birch** (*Betula papyrifera*) but, in my opinion, it definitely is not as beautiful a landscape specimen. It is a fast-grower, so if you must plant it, consider using it like a willow near ponds and streams or select a dwarf variety such as 'Little King.'
- Some say **Boxelder** (*Acer negundo*) trees lack ornamental assets, and I wholeheartedly agree. These trees typically do not contribute to the aesthetic value of the landscape, and the only redeeming feature of this tree is that the seeds and other portions of Boxelder are utilized by many species of birds and mammals as food.
- **Norway maple** (*Acer platanoides*) trees generally tolerate salt and soil compaction. However, these trees may also be invasive, block sunlight and create a plant-less environment beneath their canopies.
- Some trees attract birds and some butterflies but the native **Black cherry** (*Prunus serotina*) is a magnet for *Fall Webworm*. When you are looking for firewood keep in mind that Black cherry burns well.
- **Poplar trees** or **Quaking aspen** (*Populus tremuloides*), are quite nice when young—beautiful color and form with shivering leaves in a light wind—but they are not long-lived. Destructive sapsuckers often live in decaying poplars, providing them homes within easy access of valuable ornamental trees. Nothing is more frustrating to this arborist than finding important mature landscape trees riddled with sapsucker holes!
- **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid** is an insect pest targeting our hemlocks

(*Tsuga canadensis*) in the Northeast. These trees are so important in our forests and landscapes! It is critical for us to respect the restrictions on hemlock importation.

- **Black locust** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) trees are wonderful, with a fragrant bloom, small leaves which let light through, and a mysterious form in winter. However, plant carefully, as this tree can be invasive as well.
- **Under-story trees** (commonly known as witchhazel, shadblow, ironwood, musclewood, hobblebush, young beech, and striped maple) add dimension and character to the landscape, and provide habitat variation for birds and beneficial insects.
- I remember pruning a large **Sugar maple** (*Acer saccharum*) on a warmish day in February—every cut (over a hundred) became a small, sweet icicle shining in the sun. We are fortunate to have Sugar maples and we must treat them with respect by avoiding any change to the root zone.
- The **Northern Red oak** (*Quercus rubra*) is our native oak, sturdy with beautiful form and fall color. You may be fortunate to have a **White oak** (*Quercus alba*) with its lobed leaves and lateral habit—this is my favorite tree!

Lady's Mantle *Alchemilla mollis*

Hardiness zone: 3 to 9
Light: partial shade to full sun
Size: 12-18" t; 18-30" w
Habit: low, sprawling mounds, self-sows where happy
Bloom: June/July
A particularly wonderful ground cover for planting beneath trees and shrubs.

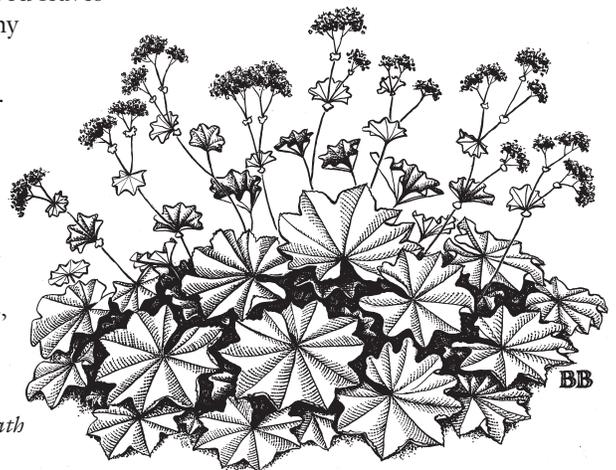
MEET A CHIPPER



Sean Smith of South Pomfret is one of our Enhancement Foremen based in our Woodstock location. Entering his sixth year of service to our team, he studied forestry and psychology at Fort Lewis College, in Durango, Colorado, where his parents still reside. Luckily for us, he ended up in Vermont!

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, he later moved to Dallas, Texas and on to Durango. Sean is an avid card player, skier (when there's snow!), hunter and fisherman. He likes to be outside in the woods—he knew he was never cut out for an indoor desk job!

Sean is married to Sara, a wonderful massage therapist, and they have two boys: Cian is 7 years old and a student at the Pomfret School; new baby Caden was born this past November, weighing in at 9lbs. 2oz. *Congratulations to the Smith family!*



[Please email your tree related questions to: askthearborist@chippersinc.com]

Spring Check List

- Visit local home and garden shows
- Order next year's firewood
- Sign up for **chippers** Plant Health Care program
- Plan to protect trees from any pending construction
- Prune shrubs
- Have trees professionally inspected
- Test soil
- Remove protective mulch
- Turn over gardens and add compost
- Sharpen mower blades
- Fertilize trees & lawns
- Divide summer & fall blooming perennials
- Be on the watch for tent caterpillar webs
- Visit our updated website: www.chippersinc.com

LARGE TREE OR SHRUB MOVING SERVICE

Would you like to plant or transplant a sizeable landscape tree or shrub?

Do you need to find another home for a large, healthy shade tree due to construction or yard-size limitations?

Our experienced arborists can assist with transplanting trees or shrubs as tall as 20'!

“I never before knew the full value of trees. My house is entirely embosomed in high plain trees with good grass below and under them I breakfast, dine, write, read and receive my company. What would I not give that the trees planted nearest round the house at Monticello were full grown.”

—THOMAS JEFFERSON, 1807, in a letter to Anne Cary Randolph (his granddaughter)



1241 Pomfret Road
Woodstock, VT 05091