

Stacey Parker

From: Stacey Parker
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 2:12 PM
Subject: PRESS RELEASE 2/2/16 - Protect Your Urban Forest

PRESS RELEASE



City of Norman
201 West Gray
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

For Immediate Release: February 2, 2016

Contact: Duane Winegardner, Tree Board, 620-0075, duanewinegardner@cox.net

Protect Your Urban Forest

Winter is the optimum time to consider the trees on your property. It is well known that residences with trees are more attractive than those without. Proper maintenance of these trees can result in economic and environmental as well as aesthetic benefits.

When considering a new planting, it is wise to determine the purpose of the planned tree: is it for shade, to add beauty or fruit. How large is the area available, what is the proximity to structures, overhead and underground utilities or streets? Reputable nursery persons and certified arborists can provide guidance on location and variety of tree. A valuable source of local information is the booklet *Oklahoma Proven, Plant Selections for Oklahoma*, and the *Tree Planting Guide*. Both of these are available free of charge from the Cleveland County Extension Service (601 E. Robinson, Norman, 321-4774).

With Oklahoma's variable precipitation cycles, it is important to pay attention to the trees in your yard. Plant growth is limited by water availability, inadequate water at critical plant life stages can ultimately lead to decreased health and death. Watering newly planted trees is less expensive than not watering, when the cost of replacement of a dead tree is considered.

Prune now or delay until later? Experts have determined that a four- to five-year pruning cycle is optimal to preserving the value of most trees. As pruning is delayed, the condition rating of the tree is decreased, resulting in the lower value of the tree (both aesthetically and monetarily). Pruning trees at a younger age (formative pruning) is less expensive than waiting to correct structural defects 20 years later. Naturally, if a tree is damaged by weather or disease, the tree should receive immediate attention.

When Norman was first chartered, this was a prairie, with trees only in well-watered areas, now we can be proud that it holds a distinction as a Tree City USA. Let us all work together to promote the beauty of our home.

The Norman Tree Board was established to study, investigate, counsel, and develop and/or update plans for the care, preservation, trimming, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of street trees, public trees and shrubs. Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 4 p.m. in the city building.

###