



DR. R.E. MOON +
ASSOCIATES
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*Gardening
by the Moon*

August 2023

SAVE THE DATE!

*Fall HOA Landscape Meeting with
Dr. R.E. Moon + Associates*

Wolf Ranch
Thursday, September 21st
@ 7 PM





We know your schedule is busy, but here are a few items you need to work into your schedule to keep your landscape healthy and vigorous:

- Eliminate weed competition. Apply post-emergent weed control such as Weed Control for Southern Grasses. Treat with Halts pre-emerge for Turf and Preen for beds to control germinating weeds.
- Fertilize to encourage recovery and vigor. If you recently fertilized, fertilize six weeks after the last application. Water in or apply before a rain. We suggest a slow-release fertilizer.
- Water according to the days your city allows. Apply multiple run times on days allowed for the best utilization of water. Per zone, set spray heads to run 5-10 minutes x 4, rotor heads to run 10-15 minutes x 4, and drip to run 1 hour. Run multiple times to wet to 6" depth.
- Remove all dead wood from trees, shrubs, and other plant materials.
- Control all insects and diseases to prevent further stress on plants.
- When temperatures moderate and you can water, remove sod that did not recover and re-sod.
- Trim back your shrubs and perennials.
- Clean weeds and Bermudagrass out of your beds.
- Mulch your beds with dyed-brown mulch. Only use enough mulch to maintain a depth of 2 inches.

- Check your yard for grubworms. If your turf pulls up easily in brown areas, check for this pest and treat it with a grubworm control product.
- Spray any weeds in the turf with weed control for southern grasses.

When applying any product, read and follow all label instructions.

Plan Now to Replace Dead Trees This Fall

By Dr. Moon

In Texas, we have lost many trees due to back-to-back summer droughts and the damage from winter storms. For those of you replacing trees, October and November are ideal times to plant new trees. Fall planting allows the tree to root into the surrounding soil during the winter, leading to a much higher probability of survival during the following summer's heat.

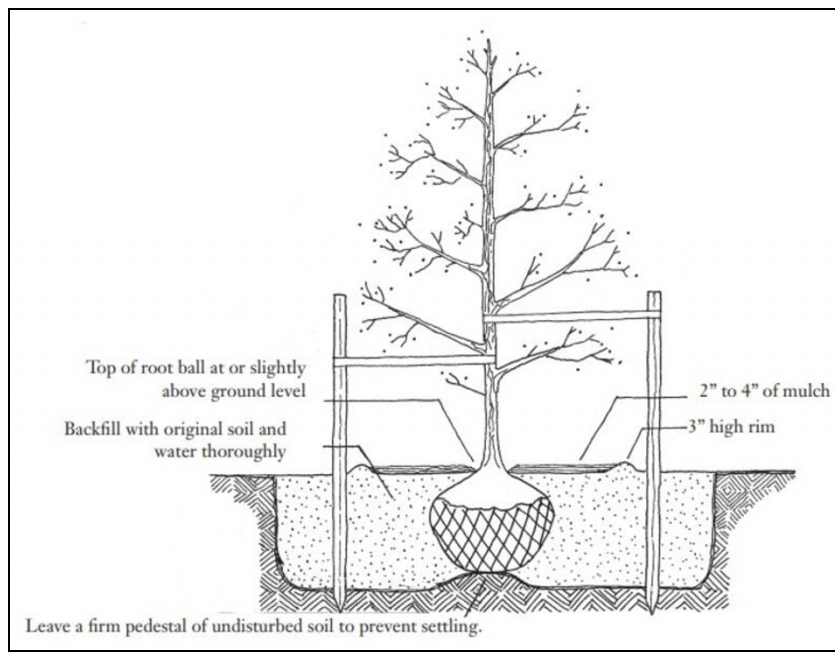
Step one in this process is to select a good-quality tree. We recommend locating a local nursery with a robust inventory of 2 ½ - 3 ½ inch trunk diameter trees. The diameter (width of the trunk) should be measured at 6 inches above ground level. These trees should be 12' – 16' tall and 4' – 6' wide (canopy). Trees should be well-branched, meaning that the branches should be evenly spaced. Avoid trees with a double leader (two equal branches in the middle of the tree forming a “Y”). The first branches should start at a height of 5' – 7' up from ground level. Trees that usually fit these guidelines are 65-gallon to 100-gallon container trees that you should inspect to ensure they are not root bound. B&B trees (balled and with burlap wrap) should have a root ball width of 28 to 38 inches and a depth of 24 to 30 inches.



Container Tree

B&B Tree

Step two is to plant the tree correctly. We suggest hiring professionals to install your tree(s) for most homeowners. Tree installers plant trees daily and have the equipment to handle and plant them correctly. Whether you install or have a professional provide this service, the tree should be planted 2" to 4" higher than the existing soil line so that when the tree settles, it will be even with the soil level. Additionally, ensure that the tree is staked in 3 directions to prevent strong winds and storms from blowing it over until it is fully established, which usually takes approximately a year. For B&B trees, make sure to remove the burlap and any wire or cord from the top of the root ball or wrap around the trunk. The remainder of the burlap and wire can remain to stabilize the root ball. The diagram below provides detail on correct planting.



Correct Tree Planting

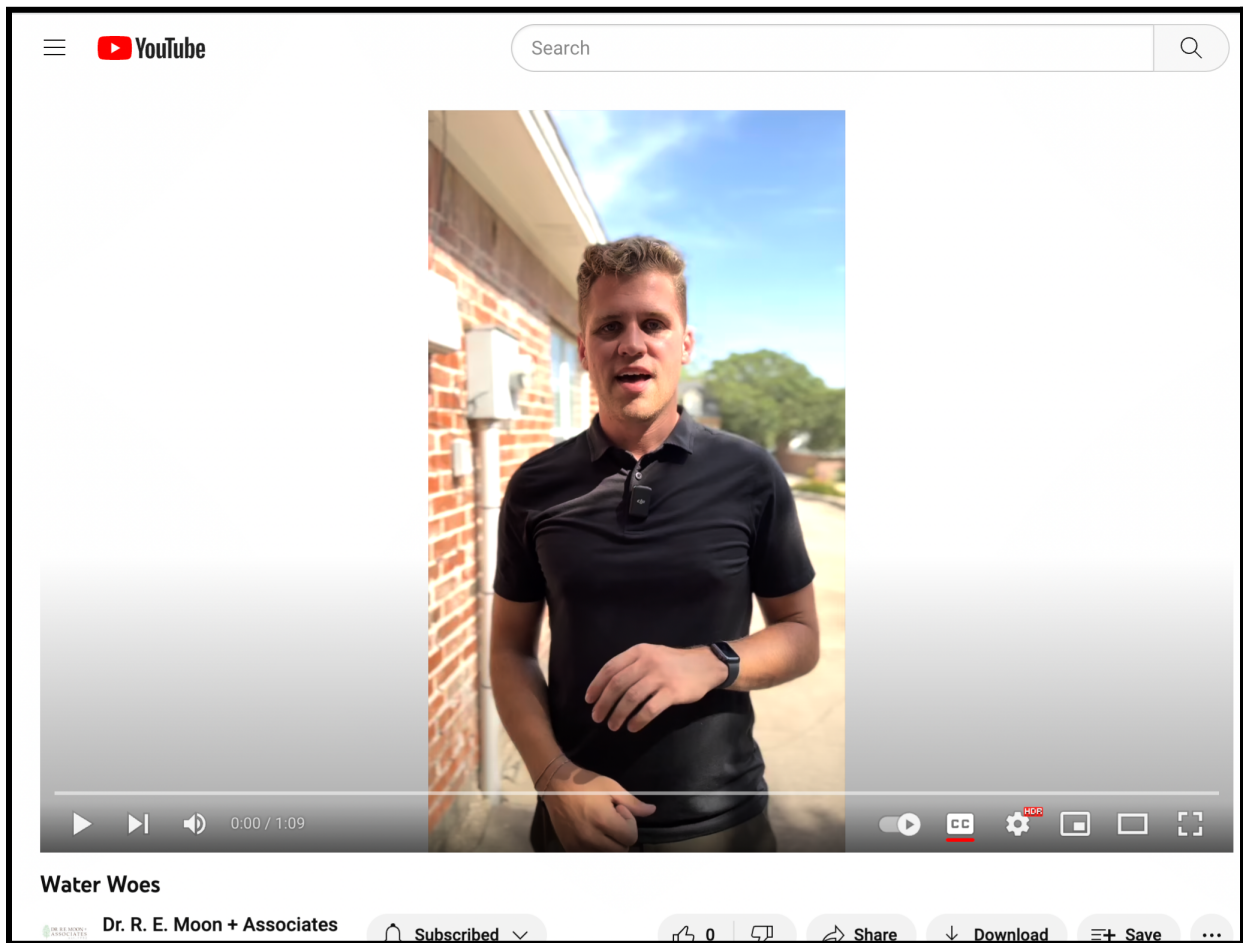
Step three is critical for your new tree. Water the tree thoroughly after planting, then only once or twice a week. Do not overwater these trees. The tree company that plants your tree can provide watering instructions for the soil in your yard.

Step four is the proper fertilization of your tree. Fertilize after planting and at least thrice yearly for the first three years. After three years, fertilize your trees once or twice per year. Use a fertilizer with a high first number (nitrogen) on the fertilizer bag and read to ensure it is a **slow-release** fertilizer. Apply $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of fertilizer per inch of trunk diameter. Spread the fertilizer evenly from the tree's trunk to 2 feet past the tree's drip line, then water the fertilizer thoroughly.

Trees can be mulched after planting but do not get carried away with too much mulch. Mulch should be pulled back from the trunk, and we recommend a mulch depth of no more than 2 inches.

Tree planting can be challenging, but the above-detailed information can serve as a valuable guide. Research and use any reputable tree supplier and installer of your choice.

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YouTube &
VIEW OUR FIRST VIDEO, “Water Woes”
for pro landscaping tricks and tips!**



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