



Featured Article

TREE STAKING – Bracing for Winter

We typically get our strongest winds during the winter months. Plus, saturated soil can contribute to a tree's instability. The following article will help defend newly planted and existing trees against the elements of nature.

Tree stakes, not to be confused with a nursery stake, are used to support a tree's trunk and root system until it has matured in size to support its leaf canopy against the elements of nature. Depending on the type of tree, this usually takes about two to three growing seasons.

In order to promote growth and to aid in the development of a strong trunk and branch system, trees need to naturally sway back and forth. Tree stakes with rubber cross-ties, when installed properly, will permit a tree to sway, and help prevent it from being blown over or snapping off.

Tree stakes should be placed firmly into the soil, approximately one foot on each side of the tree. Align the stakes perpendicular to the direction of the prevailing wind, which in this area typically blows from west to east.



Loop the rubber ties around the trunk of the tree. Twist one of the ties into a figure 8 and fasten the loose ends to a tree stake. Repeat the process for the second rubber tie. If the tree is tall or has a large crown, it may be necessary to add a second row of ties.

Check the stakes periodically and adjust the cross-ties as needed. The ties should be snug, but not too tight against the tree's trunk. Tight ties may cause permanent damage to the tree.



Leaving the stakes on longer will not harm the tree, but when left in the ground too long, they can become unsightly or break off at the base. Therefore, the stakes should be replaced if the trunk size is still not capable of supporting the crown of the tree.