

Across The Lawn

A Quarterly Newsletter
for
H & R Lawn and Landscape Customers

Tree Planting Issue

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H&R TREE FARM

NEW!!



Lots of our area trees took a huge hit during this winter's ice storm. Some area trees were destroyed completely while many others suffered broken limbs and branches.



At H&R Lawn, we are always working for a greener world, and these days we are working even harder! Naturally, we are very interested in trees to beautify the landscape and to provide shade, privacy, beneficial views and shelter for birds and other forms of wildlife.

Especially after the ice storm, our theory is that you can't have too many trees. To this end, we have installed the first eleven acres of what will eventually be a 30 acre tree farm at our headquarters in southern Johnson County.

We will grow spruces, pines and deciduous trees. The trees are small now, but they will have the advantage of developing in the same area where they will be planted, becoming well established in the local conditions.

Lots of teamwork is involved in such an undertaking. Laying out the field, so all the rows line up in all directions, was the responsibility of one crew. Others dug the holes, fertilized, placed the trees in the holes, and firmed down the dirt. The field was smoothed and pre-emergent spread to keep weeds down. Finally, the "Water Wagon" passed through the finished field giving each newly planted tree a healthy drink. And the weather cooperated by raining after the field was planted!

It will be several years before the trees are ready for placement in your landscape, but they are being well cared for in the meantime.

See more photos detailing the planting on the other side and on the web at www.handrlawn.com

Tree Planting Tips

Trees serve gardens as walls do houses; they provide screening from the outside and impart a comforting sense of security and shelter. We plant trees for breezy shade to cool our homes in the hot summer months and windbreaks for winter protection.

Since trees play such a major and lasting role in the landscape, they should be selected with care. Shade trees should be well adapted to the site and pest-resistant. Research different varieties carefully to be sure a tree



Drawing shows proper depth of planting hole, placement of tree and stakes. Mulch should not mound up on tree trunk.

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Arbor Day Tree Planting

won't outgrow its intended spot or set up unwanted competitive root systems.

Many gardeners look forward to the planting of flowers, perennials and small shrubs. Large shrubs and trees can be handled by the experts at H & R Lawn & Landscape. We will recommend varieties and placement for the most pleasing effect in your landscape and assure that the components necessary for survival are in place.

Desirable trees in undesirable places can be moved to a better location. A tree with a caliper of up to 4 inches can be successfully moved. A truck-mounted tree spade prepares a hole in the new location, then digs up and moves the tree to that spot. This is an option when a large tree is too close to a house or building, but will serve perfectly in another part of the yard.

Fertilization is not required immediately after planting trees. It is a good idea to allow the tree to become established before applying fertilizer. When you are ready to fertilize, the root feeder attached to your garden hose will allow water and fertilizer to penetrate the soil surface and reach the roots, especially important in areas with heavy clay soil. Fertilize in the fall to promote strong root development before winter.

Pruning should not be necessary immediately after planting. Prune only dead wood and to maintain the shape of the tree.

The importance of trees in the landscape cannot be overemphasized. They are the large sentinels that will determine the character and comfort of your yard for many years.

Observe National Arbor Day on April 26 and help heal the wounds of the Ice Storm.

Plant a tree – or two!

H&R Tree Farm Photos

View of the field looking toward the office. They're small now, but growing.



The "Water Wagon" dispenses a healthy drink to each newly planted pine.



Smoothing out the field after planting.

Read Robin Milliken's Master Gardener column monthly in The Olathe Daily News and online at www.handrlawn.com.

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