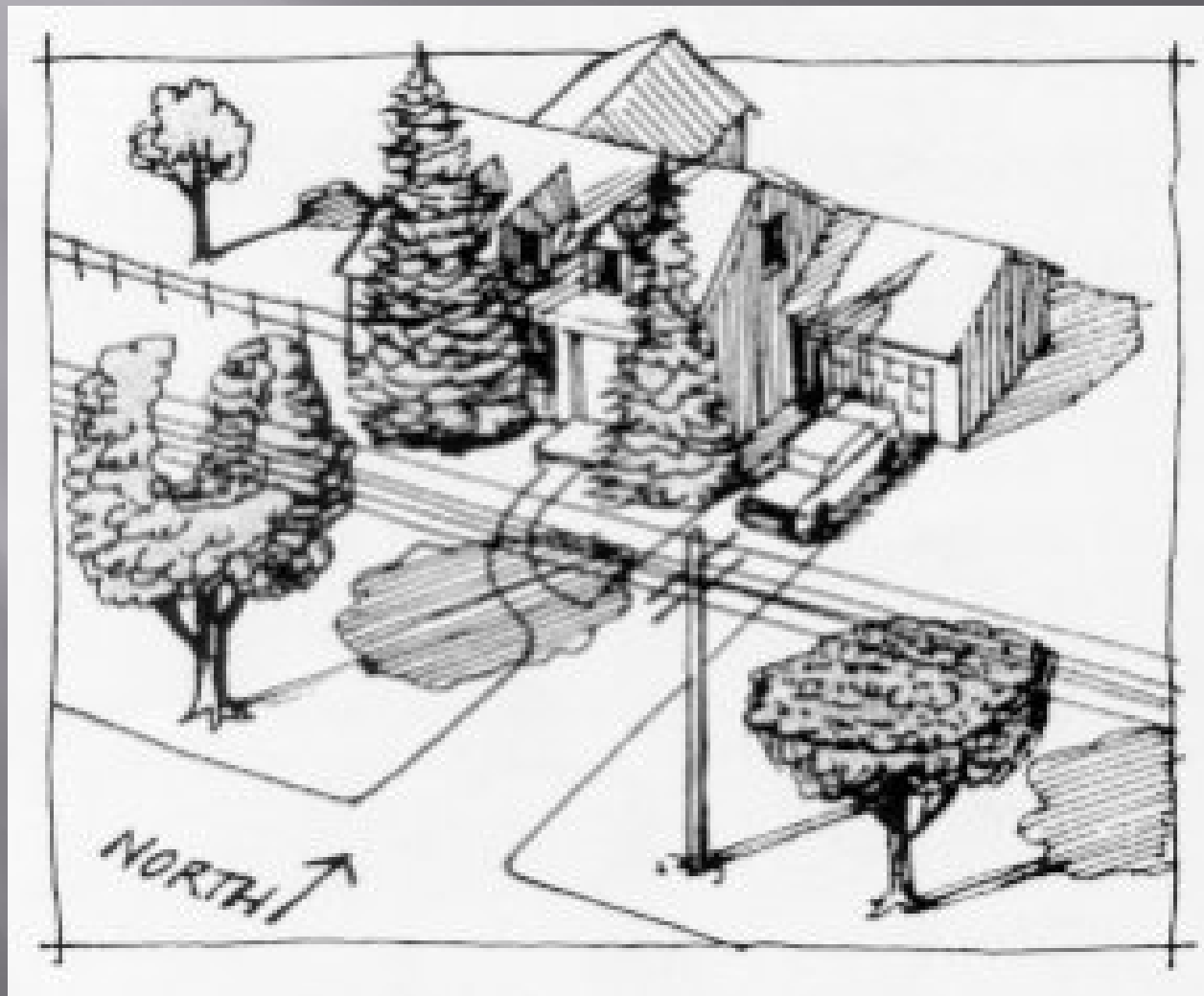


Getting to the Root of the Problem!



The Right Tree for the Right Place

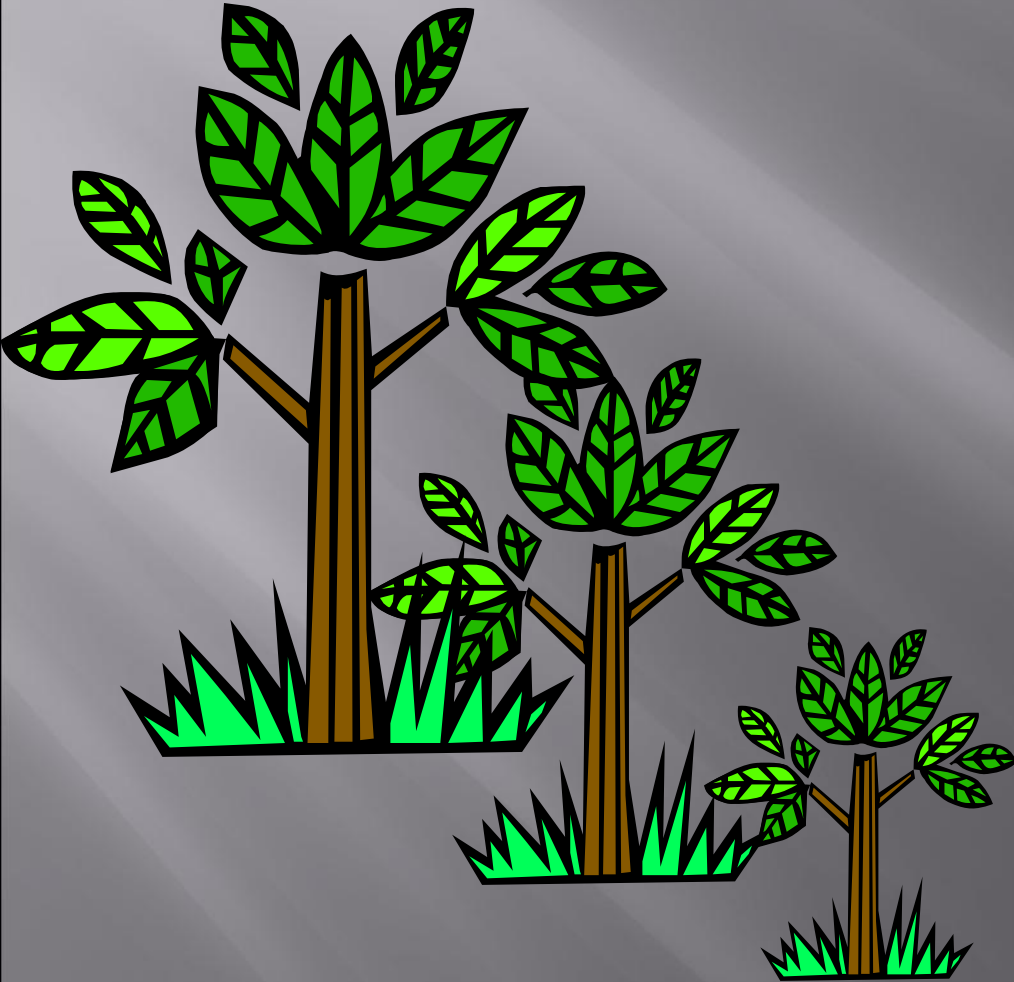


Choose a Planting Location



Consider whether a tree in the chosen location will shade your home or air conditioning unit, or serve as a buffer to winter winds. Make sure the tree will not block your view or interfere with water and sewer mains, telephone or cable wires or gas or electric line as it matures.

Allow Generous Room for Growth



- Ensure that the tree will have plenty of room to grow – both downward and outward in the ground and upward and outward into the air above.

Evaluate Planting Area Conditions



- ▣ Determine whether the chosen location receives shade, part shade, or full sun. Evaluate soil type and moisture levels.

Select a tree that will flourish in your chosen planting spot.



Dig a Wide Hole

- ▣ Your planting hole should be almost as deep as the root ball and at least twice as wide. Planting a tree 1-2 inches high is better than planting too deep. Be sure to slope and roughen the side of the hole so roots can grow easily through the surrounding soil.



Position the Tree in the Hole

- ▣ Handle the tree **gently** by the root ball or the container to prevent trunk damage. If the tree is in a container, lay the tree on its side and roll the container until it slips off the root ball. Using a sharp knife, slice the root system in four places to prevent circling root growth in the ground.



Placing the Tree in the Hole



- ▣ Place the tree in the center of the hole, making sure that it stands straight. The bottom of the root ball should sit on undisturbed soil. The top of the root ball should be even, or a little higher than the surrounding ground. If the root ball is burlapped, carefully cut away and remove all binding strings, wire and burlap material.

Backfill with Original Soil

- ▣ Fill the hole midway with the soil that came from the hole. Don't add sand, foreign soil or chemical fertilizer to the original soil. Soak with water to remove air pockets. Then add the remaining soil and soak again.



Mulch



- ▣ Add 2 to 3 inches of mulch to the planting area. Mulch insulated the soil, reduces weeds, retains moisture, adds nutrients, increases soil activity and prevents soil compaction. Be sure to keep mulch away from the tree trunk.

Water

- ▣ Water your new tree on a regular basis for the first two years to encourage a strong root system. During summer, water once weekly if there is no rainfall. Water slowly with a soaker hose so the water penetrates deeply into the soil. Keep the soil moist, but avoid over-watering. Too much water makes leaves yellow or fall off.



Finishing Touches

- ▣ Remove any protective trunk wrapping. Studies show that trunk wrap can retain unwanted temperatures and moistures against the bark and invites and conceals insect infestation.

Finishing Touches

- ▣ Remove all tags and labels.
- ▣ Prune away dead or damaged limbs. (Do no other pruning at this time.)
- ▣ Avoid staking the tree unless it's totally unstable. Staking can prevent the tree trunk's adjustment to winds and prevent the development of flexibility and normal taper. If staking is necessary, use broad, flexible material to secure the tree to the stakes. **Remove stakes after one or two growing seasons!**