Tree Talk

A partnership working toward sustainable Community Forests

Workshop Announced

A Community Canopy workshop has been planned for spring. On Thursday, April 16th join us for an all day workshop in Post Falls for ‘Transplanting Large Trees Bareroot Economically’ with Jim Flott of Community Forestry Consultants, Inc.

This workshop is designed for anyone who supervises or performs any kind of landscape maintenance activities.

For more details, see enclosed workshop brochure. There is a $50 registration fee per person. Coffee and donuts will be provided in the morning and a sack lunch will be provided in the afternoon.

Certified Arborists will receive 5.5 ISA CEUs for this workshop.

Pre-registration is required since there space is limited to 30 participants.

call 208/769-2266 for more information or send an email to kkosanke@cdaid.org

Tree Planting

By Sharon Vore, Avista Utilities

Most trees can outlive those who plant them! But a tree can also get “too big” and “outgrow” its space. We all enjoy the large, tall trees that grace our neighborhoods and communities - they help make our outdoor spaces more livable and attractive. Yet we need to balance those benefits with the need for overhead power lines and the comforts and conveniences that electricity brings to our quality of life.

Electric power outages are commonly caused by trees falling onto – or growing into – overhead power lines. High winds or heavy snow can cause tree branches to hit overhead power lines, resulting in power outages or even downed energized lines. These power outages affect public safety by interrupting service. Here’s what you can do to help prevent power outages: plant the right tree in the right place.

Power lines in our area are about 25 feet off the ground. When planting under power lines, it’s best to select small, compact trees. There are many ornamental tree species that are less than that height when fully mature.

Also consider the placement of trees near power lines. Only plant low growing compatible trees within 20 feet on either side of the wires. Taller trees can be planted more than 20 feet from the wires. Always remember to allow room for branches to grow, both vertically and horizontally.

Some tree species to plant within 25 feet of power lines are crabapples, flowering cherries, redbud, flowering dogwood, kousa dogwood, amur maackia, goldenchain tree, serviceberry, viburnums, and parrotia.

Tree species to plant farther than 25 feet from power lines include maples, oaks, ash, linden, London plane, honey locust, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and other conifers.

Trees to never, ever plant near power lines include box elder, cottonwoods, aspens, poplars, black locust; and Siberian elm.

By selecting the right tree for the space, and considering the mature size of the tree, you can make a positive impact on the environment. For further information, species recommendations, or advice before planting contact Avista Utilities at 1-800-227-9187.
Upcoming Events
Thursday April 16th — CC Workshop ‘Transplanting Large Trees Bareroot Economically’
Saturday, April 25th — Coeur d’Alene Arbor Day, Landings Park
Saturday, April 25th — Spokane Arbor Day, Finch Arboretum 11am-2pm

Post Falls Basic Arboriculture Series: Tree Planting Saturday March 21st, Tree Pruning April 4th & Recreational Tree Climbing May 9th. Contact Preston at 208-457-3315 for more information or to register.

Landscape of Excellence Award

Community Canopy announces its Landscape of Excellence recognition program.

We will be giving public recognition to commercial, retail, church and subdivision ‘commons’ properties that have done an excellent job of landscaping and tree stewardship.

If you would like to nominate a business, church or subdivision landscape area that has exemplified quality landscaping, please contact your Community Canopy representative.

Spokane Conservation District Annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale: Order Online Now!

The Annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale is open for orders online at treesale.sccd.org. Orders can also be placed in person or by mail. You can access an order form to print and mail at www.sccd.org or call 509-535-7274 to request a brochure by mail. The pick-up days and surplus sale are April 10 from 8am to 5pm and April 11 from 9am to 1pm.

This year, the featured specie is a drought tolerant grass called Dallas Blues (photo at left). It is sold in 1-gallon pots for $8 each. Dallas Blues is a grass with bold appearance and can be used to make a screen, or it can be planted as an ornamental in a xeriscape or low-water landscape. The blades are blue and contrast with the pink colored plumage that blooms around August.

Like last year, the hot species are the edible ones like Blue Elderberry, Trailing Blackberry and Heritage Everbearing Raspberry (photos below). This reflects our customers’ growing interest in food forests and permaculture. Look for the fork and knife icon in the brochure to find things that are easy to eat like berries as well as others that require creative preparation like Kinnickinnick or Woods Rose.

Another category of interest from last year was windbreaks. In response, we loaded our brochure with effective windbreak species including Rocky Mountain Juniper, Caragana, Norway Spruce, Scots Pine and Ponderosa Pine.

It’s also a good year for Christmas Tree Planting from our selection. Concolor Fir, Douglas Fir, Fraser Fir, Grand Fir, Norway Spruce, and Scots Pine are all in stock and noted for their holiday uses on the National Christmas Tree Association website, www.realchristmastrees.org.

If you have any questions, call and ask to speak with one of our foresters, 509-535-7274.