



## Tree Placement

Trees have basic needs which differ with each species. Moisture and light requirements and soil characteristics must all be taken into consideration. Be familiar with the local tree ordinance and the location of underground utilities and overhead lines. Can you get water to it? Will the tree block a view? Will it cause a hazard at an intersection or turn a sunny room into a dark one?

Consider the mature size and shape of the tree. Large trees should never be topped to fit a space. Plant a smaller tree instead, particularly beneath utility lines. Check with the utility company before planting under a power line. Pyramidal trees such as spruce with branches at ground level should be planted well away from sidewalks and walls.

Consider the shade tolerance of evergreen trees. If it is shade tolerant it probably will not do well in Lander in the winter. If they are exposed to too much sun they will suffer from winter desiccation and winter burn. (see glossary.)

Trees provide different benefits and perform different functions. Select trees which are cold hardy to Zone 4 or below. Match the tree's purpose (wind protection, shade, fall color, flowers, etc.) to its characteristics. Trees can have negative characteristics as well as positive ones. Consider such factors as susceptibility to disease, thorns, poor form or potential to "escape" and become a problem.

Trees and turf have different and often contrary needs. Lawn mowers, string trimmers and herbicides, while beneficial to lawns, have killed or damaged many trees. Mulching an area around each tree or group of trees is the single best thing a homeowner can do for a tree.





Mulch with weed barrier fabric and wood chips to retain soil moisture. It makes yard maintenance easier and reduces the competition from grass and weeds, thus a healthier tree.

Shallow, frequent watering is not appropriate for long term survival of trees which benefit from infrequent deep watering. Water your yard for the good health of the turf but give your trees a deep watering every two or three weeks.

## Planting

Consult the planting directions in the next chapter.

Most of a tree's living processes take place just under the bark. Remove all tags, wires, twine and ropes. If in a windy site stake the tree (loosely) for the first year. Generally it is not recommended to fertilize the first year. Protect from damage by animals, lawn mowers and string trimmers. The best animal protection is a wire cage. Repellants help but only if you are persistent and apply them several times a year.

## Pruning

Remove branches only where they join another branch or at the trunk. Make cut at the branch collar. Never leave a stub or make a flush cut. Remove all dead and diseased branches, crossed or rubbing branches, branches which join the trunk at acute angles and double leaders (forked tops).

