



# TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Facilities Management Newsletter

## In This Issue

### • Arbor Day

## Arbor Day

This year the FM Grounds Department would like for you to celebrate this day by doing what we do best, planting trees! Allow our experts to share some tree planting tips:

### **Why do you want to plant a tree?**

Is it for shade? For color? For fruit? To block your noisy neighbors? While there are many reasons to plant a tree, determining why will aid in getting the best tree for you.

### **What kind of tree are you looking for?**

Trees come in many shapes and sizes and have varying levels of maintenance. Make the decision that is best for you and your water bill!

### **When is the best time of year to plant in Tucson?**

Some trees have different requirements of when to plant. It is best to do some research before purchasing.

### **Where should you plant your tree?**

The function and type of tree will determine where you plant it, for example if a tree requires full sun it is best to plant it on the south side of your home.

### **How can you ensure that you are planting your tree in a safe spot?**

If you are unsure of where your sewer or power lines are, you can call 811. This is a free Blue Staking service that will come to your home and mark utility lines. They require only a 3-business day notice before they will send someone to your home.

“He who plants a tree plants hope.”

-Lucy Larcom



# Now It's Time To Plant

After you have researched and determined what type of tree you want and where it will go, it's time to dig! Begin by digging a small hole where you want to plant your tree and fill it with water. How quickly the water seeps through the soil will tell you if it's a good spot to plant. If the water takes 2-3 days to seep down, you've found the perfect location. If the water is still visible in the hole after a few days you may want to reconsider the location. The plus side of this step is that it will make it easier for you to dig the hole.

The hole should be as deep as the root ball of the tree and twice as wide, as tree roots tend to grow out, not down. Gently remove the tree from the container and run your fingers along the root ball. Center the tree in the hole. The bottom of the trunk (called the flare) should be level with the surface. Next, make sure the branches are in the direction you want them and then fill the hole back with the soil.

Finally, water your new tree immediately (unless you have an irrigation system in place). We recommend that you build a well around the tree with any left over soil-this allows you to give the tree sufficient water. The water needs will vary from tree to tree, but a good rule of thumb is to water deeply but infrequently. Doing this will force the roots to seek out water and establish themselves. We do not recommend you stake a tree unless it is falling over or not growing straight. Trees will become dependent on the stakes (like a crutch), which causes it to not establish roots. This could become a problem during monsoon season when the tree can be uprooted by high winds.

We hope you have found this newsletter helpful in determining what kind of tree to purchase and where and how to plant it.

**Happy Arbor Day from the FM Grounds Team!**

## Picture of the Month



Flag Pole Flowers Submitted by: Gabriel Santiago

## Contact Us

Feel free to send us an email with any additional questions you may have:

[fm\\_grounds@email.arizona.edu](mailto:fm_grounds@email.arizona.edu)

Or visit us on the web at [www.fm.arizona.edu](http://www.fm.arizona.edu)

## In The Next Issue:

- Summer Watering: Irrigation Systems