

Tree Talk



SPRING 2019

A PARTNERSHIP WORKING TOWARD
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FORESTS

Spring Workshop Announced!

Our Spring 2019 Workshop will take place on March 22nd at the trailhead building located at Q'emlin park in Post Falls Idaho. The AM session Speaker will be Nick Newman from Horizon Distributors whose topics will cover basic irrigation systems and designing irrigation for optimal tree watering. The PM Session will feature Eric Choker, a soil scientist from the SCCD discussing water movement through different soil types. Garth Davis a Certified Forester from the SCCD will be discussing tree species and water use and Tim Kohlhauff the Urban Horticulture Coordinator from the WSU Extension in Spokane will be discussing Trees and drought in the inland Northwest.

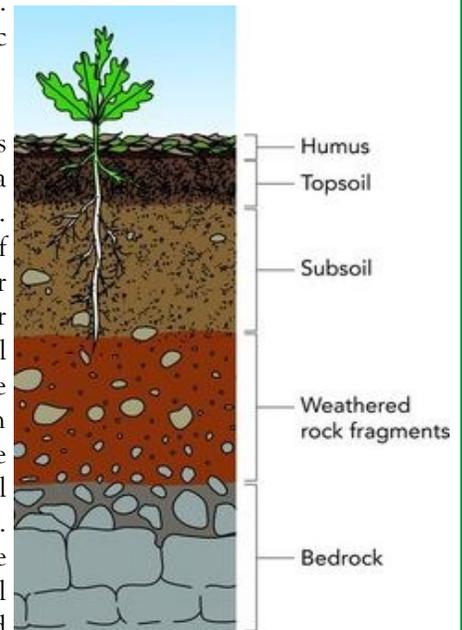
These workshops are designed for anyone who supervises or performs any kind of landscape maintenance activities. For more details, see enclosed workshop brochure. There is a \$10 registration fee per person per workshop. Coffee and donuts will be provided in the morning and a sack lunch will be provided for those attending both workshops. **Pre-registration is required since space is limited.** For more information or to register, call 208/769-2266 or send an email to ngoodwin@cdaid.org

Community Canopy has applied for ISA CEUs and CLT credits for both workshops.

Trees and Soil

Soil is a complex, living and breathing system composed of living, decomposing and dead matter, all interacting with the physical and chemical properties of the soil. When the biologically interrelated organisms in the soil food web are in balance and are able to support plant productivity, they create a "healthy" soil. Soil health, also referred to as soil quality, is defined as the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans. A healthy soil food web is vital to tree nutrition. Indicators of soil quality are structure, water holding capacity, infiltration, pH, soil organic matter, and microbial activity. Every location on earth has a unique soil and every type of plant requires a specific balance of nutrients and soil chemistry for optimal plant health. Trees in the Inland Northwest require soil with adequate structure and permeability to circulate water and air to the tree roots, as well as providing anchorage for tree stability. structure, compaction, and organic matter all affect soil porosity.

Soil permeability is how fast water moves through the soil. Macropores control a soil's permeability and aeration. The *Water Holding Capacity (WHC)* of soil is the soil's ability to hold water for plant use. Micropores are responsible for a soil's WHC. Different types of soil (sand, silt, and clay) have different pore sizes, which allows water to drain through soil at different rates. The proportions of sand, silt and clay in soil determine the water holding capacity. Medium textured soils (silt/loams) are the most suitable for plant growth. Soil texture, soil structure, compaction, and organic matter all affect soil porosity



In our area most trees planted in residential or urban areas as either landscaping trees or street trees, are often planted in soil that has had its composition altered due to development. All too often it is the norm for developers to remove all of the topsoil from areas being developed, which contains organic matter responsible for microbial activity in the soil along with most of the medium textured soil. What remains in these areas used for planting is often compacted sub soil with low soil permeability and little to no nutrients. It is best to have your soil tested before planting trees and consult with an arborist for the best ways to alter your soil composition based on the needs of desired trees.

Adapted with permission From WSU "Soils and Nutrition/WSU.trefruit.edu"

Upcoming Events



March 22nd: Community Canopy workshop “Basic Irrigation Systems, Designing Irrigation for optimal Tree Watering, Water Movement Through Different Soils, Tree Species and Water Use, Trees and Drought in The Inland Northwest.”

Arbor Day Celebration: Saturday, April 27th—Spokane Arbor Day Celebration, 11am-2pm at the John A. Finch Arboretum, 3404 W Woodland Blvd

Arbor Day Celebration: Saturday April 27th—Coeur d’ Alene Arbor Day Celebration, 11:00 to 2:00pm City Park, 415 Fort Grounds Drive will host the planting celebration will be at memorial park 480 West Garden Avenue, adjacent to the city park planting.

Tree Watering Tips

Water newly planted trees immediately.

This one probably sounds like a no-brainer, but it’s important to mention anyway.

Deep water trees in the first two growing seasons.

Young trees use up a lot of energy trying to establish their roots in the soil. So, as you can imagine, trees have a hard time dealing with drought and heat in its first couple years. Deep watering—which means keeping the soil moist to a depth that includes all roots—can help speed up root establishment.

For established trees, check soil moisture before watering.

Use a trowel to dig a few inches into the soil and touch it to see it’s moisture level. Generally, soil should be moist-not dry or drenched. If trees need watering, generally 30 seconds with a steady stream of water is adequate, or the ratio of 5 gallons per inch of trunk diameter is also used.

Don’t overwater.

Yes. You can overwater trees. Some symptoms of overwatering are yellow leaves (usually starting on lower branches), black or dark brown roots (symptoms of root rot), fungus or algae growing on the soil surface or surface roots, green leaves that are brittle, or the wilting of young shoots.

Use mulch.

Mulch not only adds a little curb appeal, it is also essential to retaining moisture and soil temperature.

Know your tree.

Different tree species have different watering requirements, so do a little research on your trees so you know best practices.

Water efficiently.

Water late at night when evaporation rates are at their lowest. Don’t use spray head sprinklers since much of the water can be lost to the wind. You could also great a basin around a tree by building a berm at the drip line to prevent runoff.

Keep up on watering.

A good rule of thumb is to water trees about once a week during the growing season. Weather conditions will dictate if you need to water more or less than this. Again, check the soil by digging down a few inches and checking its moisture.