



# CITY OF BISHOP

377 West Line Street - Bishop, California 93514

Post Office Box 1236 - Bishop, California 93515

760-873-8458 publicworks@ca-bishop.us

www.ca-bishop.us

## Tree Care Information

### Planting Trees

- Most trees need to be planted in a hole exactly as deeply as they sat in their containers (pots). If planted too deep, for example, they will slowly die.
- Dig a hole as deep and twice as wide as the container (larger if there are large rocks or if the soil is unusually hard).
- If the soil is very dry or if you suspect poor drainage, fill with water and let the water go down. If it takes hours to drain, consult with a nursery or landscaping expert about helping with soil drainage.
- When the trees are first delivered, the roots are contained in a space the size of the containers they arrived in. This concentration of roots is called a root ball.
- Set in the tree and use a straight stick or shovel handle to make sure the top of the root ball is level with the soil. Fill in the bottom of the hole to adjust the grade, if needed, and tamp firmly.
- Fill in the hole around the root ball with a 50-50 mix of soil and soil amendment. Starter fertilizer should also be placed near the roots. Starter fertilizers are low nitrogen, high phosphorus products that help root growth without promoting new top growth. You need to help get the roots out before there are new leaves to feed. There are granular forms, organic fertilizers (even bone meal is good), and tablets made for this purpose.
- Fill the hole but do not cover the root ball with more dirt. Wet and mix the soil thoroughly. Sloshy mud makes good contact with the roots, which helps root growth out into the surrounding soil.

### Staking Trees

- Staking trees not only prevents trees from blowing over or snapping in the wind, but also keeps the root ball from wobbling in the planting hole which can break off new roots.
- Use two stakes per tree, typically one on the north and one on the south side.
- Drive stakes in past the depth of the root ball and just outside the width of the root ball. Do not pierce the root ball with the stakes.

- Stakes can be driven before backfilling the planting hole.
- Tie stakes to the tree at two locations, from both sides, using four ties altogether.
- Use 1 to 1.5 inch square stakes and 1 inch wide green plant tape as ties for 5 gallon trees.
- Use 2 to 2.25 inch diameter lodge poles for stakes and use rubber ties that are nailed to the stakes for 15 gallon trees.
- Any nursery can show you which lodge pole length you need for your tree and how to attach ties.
- Make a well or depression around the tree to aid in watering.

### **Tree Care**

- Water new trees frequently – more than they will need when they are established.
- Water the root ball of the tree. Many assume that if the soil several feet away looks moist that the root ball is moist also and that if the surface is wet that the soil 18 inches down is wet too. This is often not the case.
- Fill the well with water at least daily. If the water soaks in quickly, fill it again. Just sprinkling the ground surface with a hose nozzle is not likely to reach the thirsty roots. One can get an idea how well your watering is working by probing the root area with a finger to see if it is dry.
- Water the tree deeply. As the tree grows, deep watering will insure deep rooting with numerous benefits. The tree will be watered deeply if the water soaks slowly and deeply into the ground. Even if a lawn around the tree is watered, lay a slowly dripping hose by the tree twice a week to water the tree deeply and to promote deep roots.
- Continue to water the tree this way for the first year or two.
- After 30 to 60 days apply an all-purpose fertilizer, a "15-15-15" or "16-16-16", or a "4-4-4" or similar if organic. Liquid fertilizer needs to be applied more frequently than other forms.
- Continue to fertilize the tree this way in the spring and fall of each year.

\*This information is available of the City of Bishop website [www.ca-bishop.us](http://www.ca-bishop.us)\*



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## Approved Street Tree Varieties

### List A (no power lines)

<b>Technical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
Ginkgo biloba	Maidenhair Tree
Koelreuteria paniculata	Golden Rain Tree
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Tree
Pyrus calleryana 'Aristocrat'	Flowering Pear
Sophora japonica	Pagoda Tree
Ulmus parvifolia	Chinese Elm
Zelkova serrata	Sawleaf Zelkova

### List B (anywhere)

<b>Technical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
Cercis canadensis	Eastern Redbud
Cercis reniformis "Oklahoma"	Oklahoma Redbud
Lagerstroemia indica	Crape Myrtle
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache
Robinia ambigua "Idahoensis"	Idaho Locust