



## *Gardening by the Moon*

October 2023



Halloween is approaching! And we don't want to frighten the little ghosts and goblins with TERRIFYINGLY UGLY TREES! Trees are the most valuable asset to your landscape. They are expensive and not easily replaced, but they can also be grand and eye-pleasing to your home and community. The trees in your yard are a vital part of community planning, so their beauty will set the desired atmosphere for years to come. These trees will grow and thrive properly, providing shade, cooling, and year-round beauty.

Maintenance items and tips that will help your trees remain healthy and vigorous:

## USE NEEM OIL:

Derived from the Neem Tree, the oil is the perfect remedy for many ailments. Here are some of the perks of using Neem Oil:

- Easy to make or easy to purchase at your local garden center or home improvement store
- Organic
- Safe for ALL plant materials
- Safe for the environment
- Easy to use: apply to all plant materials for control of insects, mites, and many diseases
  - It kills pesky ants and prevents them from coming back
  - It is a preferred treatment for aphids
  - It can stop the spread of the fungal disease, such as powdery mildew and leaf spots



## USE BioSol FERTILIZER:

BioSol is a fertilizer that enhances soil health and provides vital tree and plant nutrients. Here are the perks of using BioSol:

- Organic
- Safe for the environment
- All-purpose
- Vitalizes plants and improves overall soil health
- Slow-release and long-lasting effects

At Harvest, you are fortunate because your HOA sells this premium fertilizer. Contact the Harvest HOA during office hours to make arrangements to purchase BioSol.



## **PRUNE YOUR TREES:**

Prune cut the dead wood out of your trees: Canopies of trees need to be lifted and lightened, and dead wood due to the freeze needs to be cut out. You can prune Oak trees anytime until the end of February or starting again in July. *Do not prune in March, April, May, or June* to avoid spreading oak wilt disease. You can prune all other trees during the dormant season—light prune, removing crossover branches, sucker growth, and water sprouts. When making cuts, do not leave stubs. Never cut trees back from the top. When cutting back side branches, always cut even to another branch. Remove dead wood and broken branches when they appear.



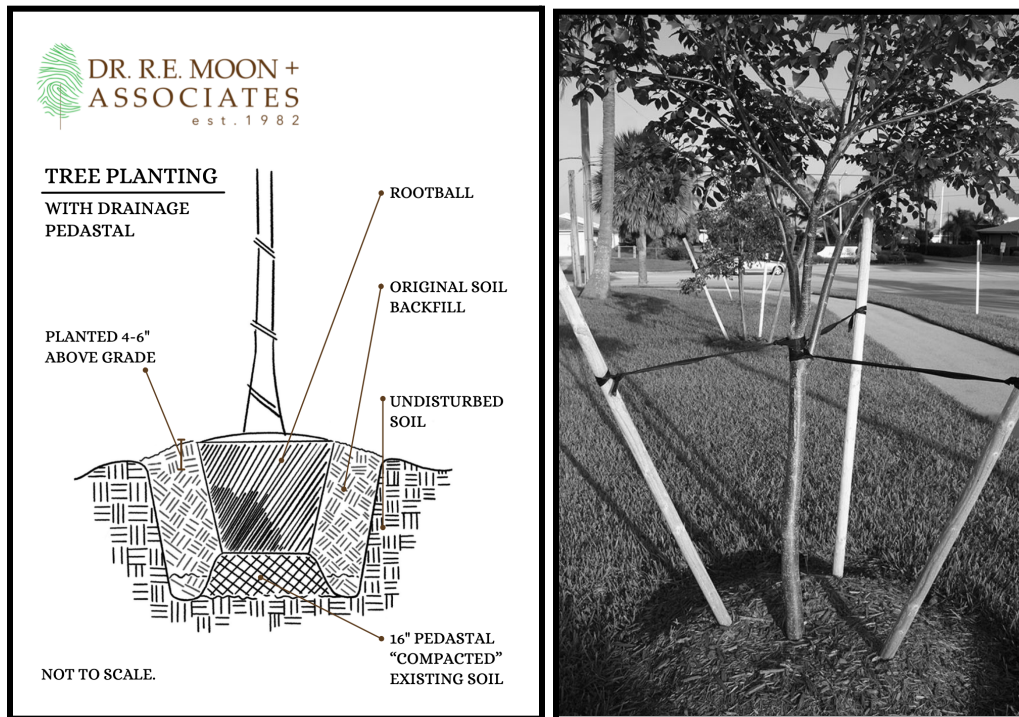
An example of dead wood that needs to be removed

## **DEAD TREE REPLACEMENT:**

If you have a dead tree, October is the perfect time to replace the tree; this includes ornamental and accent trees. The freezes and heat over the previous years have severely damaged and killed many trees. It is an expense to plant a tree, but replanting it is worth the money. If your tree is severely damaged and you had to cut the entire top of the tree out to remove dead wood, you should replace it.

Please see the tree planting diagram below for correct tree planting. You can also hire a landscape company to plant the tree for you. In addition to adequately planting the tree, you will want to utilize the 3-stake system to provide optimal support and encourage successful root establishment.

Once your tree has been in for one year, shake the trunk, and if the root ball does not move, it is time to remove all staking materials. **Do not let the materials cut into the bark, damaging trees!** If the root ball is still moving, leave on staking materials, but loosen all ties as needed to prevent damage to branches and tree trunks.



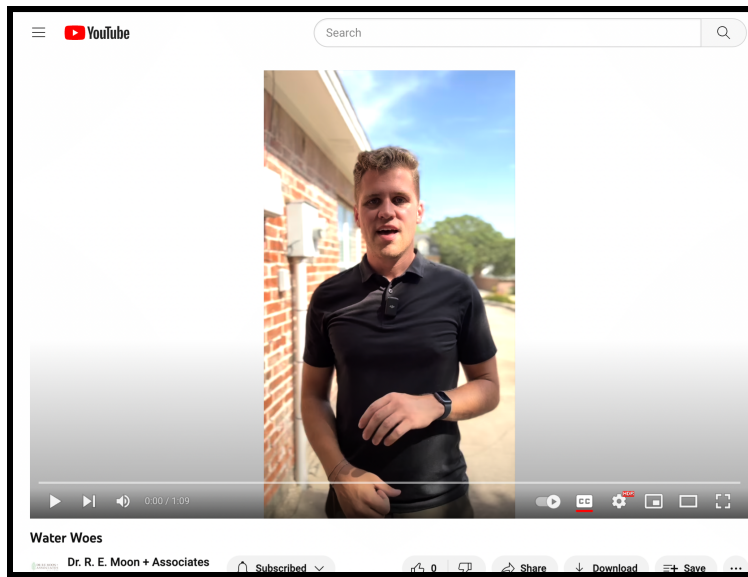
## MULCH & TREE RINGS:

Mulch rings help establish and protect trees from mower and line trimmer damage. Also, mulch rings help conserve moisture and cool the soil, aiding root growth. The recommended mulch depth should be about 2 to 2 1/2 inches deep above the soil line in beds and around tree rings. However, the mulch depth will often become greater than that when beds and tree rings are mulched yearly. Do not remove excess mulch since this will damage the plants. Roots from plants have grown into the mulch. Removing mulch will cause plants to become stressed or die from root damage. The best solution is to move any loose mulch to bare areas of beds, not disturbing roots growing into the mulch.

Once that is done, lightly mulch entire beds and tree rings with a sprinkling of mulch to freshen beds and rings. Apply no more than 1/4 inch depth of new mulch. The excessive mulch will eventually decay or compost into the soil; at that point, adding mulch to a depth of 2 to 2 1/2 inches can start again. It is always best to have too much mulch than no mulch at all. But 2 to 2 1/2 inches of mulch in beds and tree rings is ideal pulled back from root flare. **Do not build a mulch volcano around your tree!**



**DON'T FORGET to SUBSCRIBE to our YouTube & VIEW OUR VIDEOS for pro landscaping tricks and tips!**



**You can also find us on TikTok, Facebook, & Instagram.**

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