

## Mulch

A tree's best friend, mulch insulates soil, retains moisture, keeps out weeds, prevents soil compaction, reduces lawnmower damage, and adds an aesthetic touch to a yard or street. Remove any grass within the mulch area (preferably out to the drip line) depending on tree size. Spread mulch no more than 3 to 4 inches deep within the circle, but not touching the trunk. Forming a bagel around your tree will help create a water berm for the tree. Avoid creating a mulch volcano!



## Girdling Kills Trees

Girdling is any activity that injures the bark of a tree trunk and extends around much of the trunk's circumference. Such injuries, often caused by lawnmowers and weed trimmers, destroy the tree's most vital membranes, the layers that conduct water and minerals from the roots to the leaves and return the food produced by the leaves to the rest of the tree. Proper mulching techniques will help reduce these types of injuries.



For additional information on tree care please visit:

<http://www.arborday.org>  
<http://kansasarborists.com/>  
<http://www.isa-arbor.com/home.aspx>  
<http://www.kansasforests.org/>

References:  
Arbor Day Foundation  
ISA

Proper Planting and Maintenance of Trees

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# CITY TREES

Proper Planting and Maintenance of Trees



**Lenexa**   
K A N S A S  
Parks and Recreation

# Lenexa's Trees

The City of Lenexa's goal is to make our community a beautiful place to live and we need your help. Keeping our urban forest healthy and safe is a major objective to reach that goal. Lenexa is proud of our designation as a "Tree City USA". We have certified arborists on staff and all of our staff is thoroughly trained in proper ways to trim, remove and maintain trees.

Here is some helpful information on proper care of trees. Please feel free to contact us with any questions at 913-541-8592.

## Right-of-Way Trees

Below is a list of acceptable trees for planting in the right-of-way. These types of trees have been selected for their strength, size, and ability to thrive in our extreme weather conditions.

- Red Sunset Maple
- Sugar Maple
- Triumph Elm
- Bald Cypress
- Shademaster Locust
- Saw Tooth Oak
- Swamp White Oak

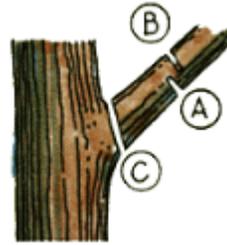
The city has the right to trim or remove any trees in the public right-of-way abutting your property. Occasionally this includes trees that sit outside the right of way that obstruct or overhang a sidewalk, street, or street light. Trees must be trimmed to allow a minimum of 8' clearance over sidewalks and 13' clearance for streets. Our reasons for trimming trees abutting your property are:

- \* Damaged, diseased or dead Tree
- \* Obstruction (sight, sign, sidewalk, etc.)
- \* Low, hanging or broken branches
- \* Promote healthy growth

# Trimming Trees

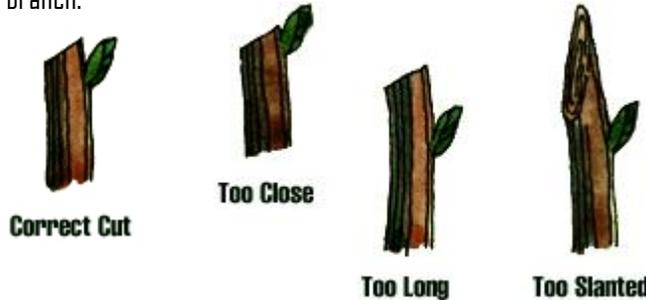
## Pruning Large Limbs

- A:** Make a partial cut from beneath.
- B:** Make a second cut from above several inches out and allow the limb to fall.
- C:** Complete the job with a final cut just outside the branch collar.



## Pruning Small Branches

Make a sharp clean cut, just beyond a lateral bud or other branch.



## Don't Top Trees

Never cut main branches back to stubs. Many people mistakenly "top" trees because they grow into utility wires, interfere with views or sunlight, or simply grow so large that they worry the landowner.



Unfortunately, the topping process is often self-defeating. Ugly, bushy, weakly attached limbs usually grow back higher than the original branches.

Proper pruning can remove excessive growth without the problems topping creates. In addition, many arborists say that topping is the worst thing you can do for the health of a tree. It starves the tree by drastically reducing its food-making ability and makes the tree more susceptible to insects and disease.

# Planting a Tree

Proper tree planting is essential for the growth and survival of the tree.

1. Dig a shallow, broad planting hole. Holes should be three times the diameter but only as deep as the root ball.
2. Identify the trunk flare where the roots spread at the base of the tree. This part should be partially visible after the tree is planted.
3. Handle trees by their root balls, never the trunk. Remove the container from root ball prior to placing in hole. Remove wire basket and burlap from root ball once placed in hole (these will constrict tree). Inspect the root ball for circling roots and cut or remove them.
4. Place tree at proper height. It is better to plant the tree a little high than too deep; 2-3 inches above the base of the trunk flare. Ensure tree is straight before back filling.
5. Fill in hole one-third at a time, stopping to gently pack the soil around the base of the root ball.
6. Water thoroughly every 7-10 days. Continue to water for first 2-3 years. Creating a berm around the base with mulch will help retain water.

