

Archive for August, 2008

Fall vs. Spring Planting

Sunday, August 24th, 2008

I must admit I've never been a fan of fall tree planting, even though I know that a tree can be planted successfully almost anytime during the year **IF** circumstances and proper aftercare combine correctly. In general, circumstances are almost always better for planting in the late winter or early spring (as long as the ground isn't frozen). A high success ratio can be obtained during this time if a moderately competent job of planting is done. Spring conditions are usually more forgiving than any other time of the year (especially deep winter and summer), and the newly planted trees can get an immediate good start.

In Missouri, most species of trees do not become fully dormant until mid-late December, and planting dormant seedlings or larger planting stock is much easier to do while minimizing damage during the transplanting process. However, many people like to plant trees in the fall, particularly in urban settings, and with larger sized planting stock, whether it be potted, balled and burlaped, or even large bareroot 2-3 year old stock.

The bottom line is, "If you plant in the fall, take the time to do it as correctly and as competently as possible, and remember that the tree is trying to do it's best to survive and grow while you are disturbing it during the transplanting process. Good luck, and let's plant a tree this fall, and a bunch of them next spring!"

Gene

Alas And Alack

Friday, August 29th, 2008

Well.....I thought by now I would have some words of wisdom to pass along about proper tree planting technique. Actually, I have some illustrations that will substitute for the words of wisdom, but, being new to the blogging business, I am having some technical difficulties getting the information inserted to the post. We're working on it, and I hope to be able to accomplish the feat within the next few days (or so the techies tell me). Please bear with us, and wish the old guy good luck learning this new stuff.

As that great philosopher of our (or any other) time, Anonymous, might say, "The best laid plans of mice and old men sometimes go astray."

I do think of other things great and small besides trees, and I might offer some observations to while away the program patching:

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavors, and dishwashing liquid with real lemons?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Only in America do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and store our useless junk in the garage.

Hang in there, and keep the light on for me.