

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **The Right Tree in the Right Place**

A bad habit that has turned into an accepted practice in Missouri would become obsolete if people would follow a procedure called “the right tree in the right place.”

“If property owners took time to look into the future when planting trees, we wouldn’t be faced with the problem of ‘topping,’ ” said Lisa Allen, State Forester, Missouri Department of Conservation.

Planting the right tree in the right place is a designed program of planting trees with an eye to their specific environment.

“Homeowners, businesses and even local governments who plant on rights-of-way should be extremely conscious of the type of trees they are planting and where,” she said. “A tree doesn’t need to be ‘native’ to Missouri to grow in the state, but considering a tree’s survival rests entirely with where it is planted and how it is managed, native Missouri trees are almost always a better choice. A beautiful, shade-providing, environmentally beneficial tree can grace our state for a century or longer, if treated properly.”

Proximity to other trees, buildings and underground or above-ground utilities must also be considered. Ground conditions – hilly or flat, dry or moist, hard soil or soft – also play a role in the selection of trees.

“Power lines are a necessity for our communities”, Allen said. But when they are above-ground people often think planting trees directly under them will soften their appearance. However, if the wrong trees are selected and they grow into the path of the power lines, they become a constant and expensive maintenance issue for years.

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## Page 2 – Right Tree

Today, most utilities, as well as the Missouri Department of Conservation, provide guidelines for planting of trees as well as a listing of suggested trees that will flourish nicely, in the right setting.

“Missourians are blessed by the number of trees that we have, their height, fullness in leaves and color, the ease with which they grow and their longevity. The downside of that is the best trees are like good wines; they need time to age,” she said. “Fast growers don’t last as long. They are weaker and more susceptible to disease, weather and early death.”

With the right selection, proper annual trimming, adequate water and mulching, these “suggested” trees will increase property value, reduce heating and air-conditioning costs and provide a natural habitat for birds and small animals.

“Provided they’re the right tree in the right place,” Allen said.

For more information on planting the right tree in the right place or other tree care advice, call 1-877-40 NO TOP (877-406-6867).

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