A stone path winds through a lush green lawn. On the left, there is a large, rounded green bush. Several trees with green foliage are scattered throughout the scene, casting shadows on the grass. The overall atmosphere is bright and sunny.

FBMG Help Desk

Question of the Week

I have planted 3 of the same tree in the same location for the last 3 years and each one has died. I want to plant another. What should I do to keep it alive?

Lets look at some steps to take...

Healthy Soil is a Must

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Test Before Planting and or adding Nutrients

The answer to multiple landscape concerns begin with the same answer.

A Soil Test

Nutrient

A substance that an organism
needs to live and to grow.

Ph

It is easy and well worth the effort.

go to <https://soiltesting.tamu.edu/webpages/forms.html>

Print the Urban Soil Submittal Form (1 form per sample)

soil submittal form urban 2023 (tamu.edu)

fill it out and follow the directions on the page 2 and below

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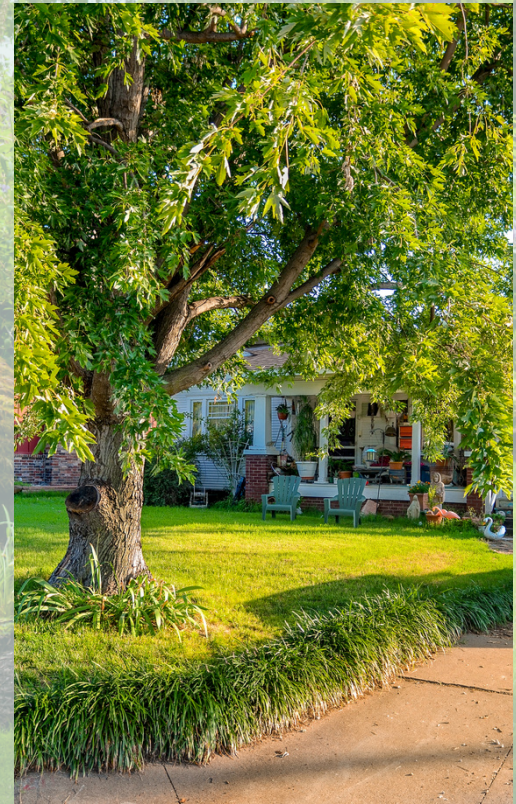
Placement is Key

Examine Your Property

How does the sun hit, how many hours a days of sunlight, are there low lying areas, does the water drain easily?

Each plant has specific Requirements

- know the plant you are planting
- ensure it has the correct hours of sunlight
- make sure it has room to grow
- allow room for air flow
- plant in an area where it gets the correct amount of water
- fertilize after soil has been tested
- allow it time to grow



Proper Selection is Vital

The proper plant for the right site.

Read the label and/ or ask the seller for the plants requirements.
Just because we love it does not ensure our landscape is the best fit for it.



- Will the light requirement in your landscape match the plants?
- Will it have space to grow?
- Is it designated for this growing zone?
- Did it come from a local grower?
- If it came from a greenhouse, make sure that you acclimate it to the outside before planting it.

Planting Technique

Proper planting plays important role in the plants success.

Some easy steps to provide success with your new tree



- Proper size hole: Dig the hole at least twice as wide as the root ball.
- Check the depth: Your tree's root collar should be flush or slightly above the surrounding soil.
- Check the drainage: Fill the hole with water and observe how fast the soil absorbs the water.
- Check the root ball: Remove any wires, twine, cords, etc.
- Use existing soil: Do not add soil amendments, use the soil that came out of the hole.
- Mulch: Provide 2-3" of mulch out to the drip line but not touching the trunk.

The Reward is Amazing

Before you know it you will have shade,
harvest and be enjoying your tree.



During the first year after planting, proper care will assure years of enjoyment from your new tree.

Newly planted trees need proper irrigation to properly establish the root system. Depending upon the time of year you plant your tree, water your new tree as frequently as needed given your soil type and the speed at which water absorbs. Do not over-water.

Resist the urge to fertilize during the first year of planting unless your soil test recommends an amendment.

If you have staked or provided ties to support the trunk, be sure to monitor frequently so as to allow proper room for growth of the trunk

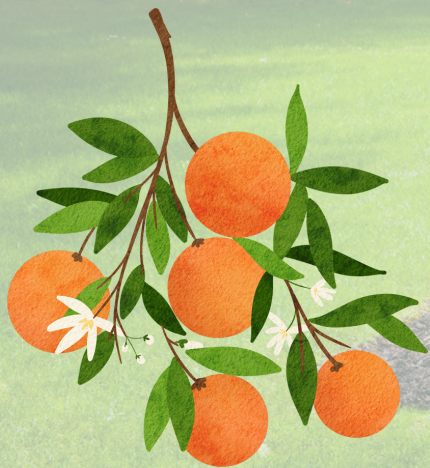


FBMG Fruit Tree Sale

Come Visit and Support FBMG
Saturday, February 10, 2024

The FBMG 24th annual Fruit Tree Sale will be held from 9 a.m. until noon (or until sold out). This year there will be an estimated 75 different varieties of fruit trees, berries and tropicals/sub-tropicals for sale with approximately 1,000 different plants available. Fort Bend Master Gardeners will be available at the sale to answer questions so you can obtain the best information about how to plant and care for your new tree or plant.

We will provide a limited number of wagons to assist you in transporting the plants. You are permitted to bring your own hand-drawn wagon if you prefer not to wait for a wagon.



*Do you have questions
about your home
landscape and plants?*

*Contact the Fort Bend
Master Gardener Help Desk:*

*Email:
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu*

*Phone:
281-341-7068*

*The Help Desk is manned
Monday thru Friday,
9am-Noon*

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/arboday/plantingsteps/>
<https://cmg.extension.colostate.edu/Gardennotes/635.pdf>
<https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/planting/planting-and-establishing-trees.html>
<https://nfs.unl.edu/documents/communityforestry/Storm%20Damage%209%20-%20Care%20of%20Newly%20Planted%20Trees.pdf>
<https://extension.psu.edu/beginning-grower-planning-and-planting-an-orchard> <https://extension.okstate.edu/factsheets/training-young-shade-and-ornamental-trees.html>
<https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8048.pdf>
<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/planting-trees-correctly/>
<https://fbmg.org/files/2020/02/Care-of-Fruit-Trees-book-UPDATED-v2-1.pdf>

