

Selecting a Quality Tree

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Tree Variety

Choose a tree to match your landscape design - oasis, arid or transitional.

Choose a tree appropriate to the planting site. Consider these characteristics:

Size - Give room for hardscape elements and power lines. Know the mature size of the tree you select.

Shape - Consider the tree shape you want: Excurrent , decurrent, pyramidal, columnar, round, umbrella.

Color - Research bloom color and season. Also leaf and bark color and texture.

Litter - Faster-growing trees tend to have higher litter.

Shade - Decide if you need an open or dense crown. Also choose either a deciduous, semi-deciduous or evergreen tree.

Water usage - Determine appropriate tree variety according landscape design.

Frost and Heat tolerance - Make sure tree selection is appropriate for climate and micro-climate.

Possible problems - Before selecting a tree, research any potential problems such as high litter, disease susceptibility, surface rooting, poor branch structure, tendency to branch or trunk failure, thorns.

Tree Quality

Choose a tree free of problems:

Loose in planting media - Avoid buying a tree recently moved up to a larger container.

Root bound - Don't purchase trees left in containers too long.

Girdling roots - Remove soil at base of trunk and check for circling roots. If found, keep shopping.

Disease and insects - Look for sparse foliage, leaf discoloration or damage.

Narrow branch attachments - Avoid trees with included bark or co-dominant stems.

Mechanical damage - Be on the lookout for injuries to trunk or branches.