Forest plantation/ Practical Third stage

Forestry Department

**Sustaining the Newly Planted Tree (Care of plantation)**

**1- Mulching**

Ground around newly installed trees will help conserve moisture, reduce turf grass and weed competition, and eliminate potential damage from lawn mowers and trimming equipment.

Mulches such as wood chips, ground bark, pine needles, or compost should be applied over the developing root system (usually out to the tips of the branches) to a depth of two to three inches. Mulch should not be in contact with the tree’s bark because decay or rodent damage could result. Grass clippings should not be used because they compress and mat together, restricting water and oxygen movement.

**2- Fertilization**

**Do not fertilize!** When a tree is stressed during a drought, sometimes gardeners think it needs to be fertilized. Actually, fertilizers can contain high salt concentrations and cause further harm to the tree.

**3- Pruning**

Pruning is an essential and accepted practice, which keeps trees and shrubs healthy. At planting time should be limited to alleviating problems and ensuring good branch structure. Do not thin a tree to compensate for root loss! Rather, prune to remove broken, crossing, crowded, or rubbing branches and any diseased tissue. Remove basal sprouts, encourage a central leader, and eliminate narrow crotches with included bark (Figure 4).

Pruning paints or sealers do not prevent decay or promote rapid wound closure and are not recommended. Leave lower branches on trees to stimulate root and trunk diameter growth. In general, two-thirds of the tree height should be left as crown (branches and leaves).

Whenever remove of branches back to the trunk, always cut just outside of the branch bark ridge thereby preventing injury to the branch collar (Figure5). Careful pruning will promote rapid wound closure and inhibit spread of decay in the trunk.

**4- Staking or guying**

Large trees, bare-root trees, or those having high wind resistance, such as evergreens, especially on exposed sites, is an important ingredient to successful tree planting.

Stakes for support should be attached to the tree low on the trunk with flexible web belting or any strong, soft, wide strips of material to prevent girdling injury.

The purpose of staking or guying is to prevent movement of the lower trunk and root system. Movement of the top is desirable and will strengthen the tree.