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:

- <u>Size</u> Give room for hardscape elements and power lines. Know the mature size of the tree you select.
- <u>Shape</u> 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.
- <u>Litter</u> Faster-growing trees tend to have higher litter.
- <u>Shade</u> 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.
- <u>Frost and Heat tolerance</u> Make sure tree selection is appropriate for climate and microclimate.
- <u>Possible problems</u> 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.

<u>Girdling roots</u> – Remove soil at base of trunk and check for circling roots. If found, keep shopping.

<u>Disease and insects</u> – Look for sparse foliage, leaf discoloration or damage.

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

<u>Mechanical damage</u> – Be on the lookout for injuries to trunk or branches.