WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
CHELAN COUNTY EXTENSION

Right Tree, Right Place, Chelan County PUD Sponsored, Full Day Seminar

Date: April 20, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Location: Confluence Technology Center

Title

Right Tree, Right Place

Presenters

Paula Dinius, Urban Horticulturist, WSU Chelan County Extension
Ben Thompson, Urban Forestry Specialist, WA State DNR Urban & Community Forestry

Summary

Trees provide many benefits to the environment, the economy and people. For trees to provide those benefits they must be healthy. One of the most important things in managing trees is to have the right tree properly located on a site. When planning for new tree installations the key is to select the right tree species (and cultivar) that will meet the planting objects, and at the same time allows the tree to grow to its full potential on the designated site. The well founded principles of Right Tree, Right Place provide guidelines that help with tree selection for a specific site.

As new research accumulates expounding the benefits of urban trees, we see more options in tree choices and planting configurations to maximize best management practices in tree care. These two converging concepts provide more strategies to achieve the objectives of tree care and resulting benefits. By planting the right tree in the right place the benefits that may result include reduction in heating and cooling costs, reduced urban heat island effects, stormwater management, wildlife habitat, fire-resistant landscapes, pollution and CO2 mitigitation.

Agenda

9:00 – 9:50 Principles of Right Tree, Right Place

The research based principles of Right Tree, Right Place are founded on the idea that trees are genetically programmed to have specific characteristics. These include size and shape; soil, water, and sun requirements; heat and cold tolerance; growth rate and fruiting structures. It is best to match the tree to the site. Before selecting a tree the site must be evaluated to determine the cultural requirements the site can provide. Trees with these attributes can be listed and selected from.

10:00 – 10:50 Tree Location and Configuration to Maximize Benefits

Maximizing tree benefits can be difficult in urban environments. Unsuitable conditions can increase tree stress and pest problems. While trying to improve one condition, we can unwittingly create another. For instance, planting trees to shade a parking lot or increase the life of asphalt paving, if not done properly, can damage paving or infrastructure from root issues. It may also cause significant water and heat stress to the tree compromising its health and longevity. There are some research based strategies regarding tree location and configuration that can mitigate these inadvertent problems. In areas prone to wildfire there are other concerns as to the best location for tree planting. Trying to shade a structure to reduce cooling cost may create a problem if planted too close to the structure. These, along with other scenarios will be presented.

11:00 – 12:00 Right Tree, Right Place Exercise

We will go out outside into the surrounding landscape that consists of various microclimates, infrastructure elements, soil types, irrigation designs, and plant species. Data will be collected to use back inside to evaluate the site and the trees found there.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch – On Your Own

1:00 – 3:00 Right Tree, Right Place Exercise Continued

Inside, collected data will be analyzed and appropriately labeled onto a basic diagram of the facility and surrounding landscape. Using a worksheet consideration will be given to plant location and configurations. A discussion will follow focusing on how the trees planted do or do not fit the site, if and/or how they are maximizing potential benefits; and, what could be done to get closer to maximization of research based tree benefits.