

Agent Cites Steps For Planting Trees

The Agricultural Extension Service has some suggestions for those Yancey County citizens who plan to observe "Plant a Tree Week" in North Carolina.

"Extension workers have found that there are about eight steps to the proper planting of a tree," said E. L. Dillingham, County agricultural extension agent.

"If a person will follow these steps, we believe that newly planted trees will come nearer living and giving the satisfaction for which they were intended," Dillingham added.

Dillingham described the eight steps to proper tree planting this way:

1. Select the site for the tree carefully. Be sure to look up and avoid planting trees underneath low vines. Make sure the space is large enough to accommodate the tree you select.

2. Select trees that are adapted to your locality. Your local nurseryman can advise you on tree selection. Also, your county extension office has a tree bulletin that has a list of recommended shade trees.

3. Be sure to dig a large hole for your tree. The hole should be about six inches deeper and twelve inches wider than is necessary for the ball of soil or to spread out the roots.

4. Set the tree the same depth that it came out of the soil originally. You might allow one or two inches for setting. Leave the burlap on if the ball of soil is wrapped. Pack the soil thoroughly as the hole is filled. Add peat moss or woods mold to the fill dirt if your soil is poor and hard. Leave a ring of soil around the tree to hold water.

5. For a tree that is six to ten feet high, mix one-half pint of superphosphate or bone meal with the soil as the tree is planted. Use about one-fourth pint of 8-8-8 if superphosphate or bone meal is not available. Mix the fertilizer thoroughly with the soil as it goes into the hole.

6. Unless the tree was grown in a container it will need some pruning to balance the loss of roots. Prune back all side limbs around one-third. Do not cut the top out of the tree if it has a central leader.

7. Water the tree thoroughly at the time of transplanting, and mulch with three to four inches of pine straw, bark or similar material. Continue watering about once each week during the spring if the ground becomes dry.

8. Guy or stake all trees over one to two inches in diameter.

This can be done by driving a stake beside the tree or by using three wires anchored to stakes a few feet from the tree. Be sure to pad the trunk so the wires will not cut into the tree.

"Trees serve many purposes in addition to providing beauty of blossoms, fruit and leaves," Dillingham said. "They help to purify the air we breathe. They protect us from the sun and wind. They stabilize our soil and screen out objectionable views. They also provide us with wood for a thousand and one objects."

Medicare

Enrollment

Period Ends

April 1

The Asheville social security district office will remain open until 9:00 p. m. on Monday, April 1 — the last day of the Medicare enrollment period that began on January 1 of this year.

James E. Robertson, district manager, stated that the late district office hours on April 1 will be provided as an "extraordinary service and convenience for any older people who, for various possible reasons, have failed to sign up before the last day of this enrollment period."

Robertson explained that any 65-year old and older people who neglect to sign up during the present period will not have another "open season" for the medical insurance enrollment until January to March 1969 — and then would have to pay a 10 percent higher monthly premium because of filing one year later.

"Moreover, due to personal events and circumstances, this enrollment period will turn out to be the last opportunity some will ever have to enroll in this health insurance program. So I urge all older people who do not have this valuable health insurance protection to seriously consider signing up now. And you may take advantage of our late hours on Monday, April 1."

The social security district office is located at 50 South French Broad Avenue, Asheville, N. C.

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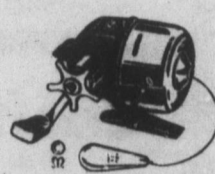
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