



NEWS RELEASE

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Forest Service: tree care tips only click away

DURHAM, N.H.—The U.S. Forest Service just released a free publication on the Web to help tree owners keep their yard trees healthier and living longer.

"All too many yard trees decline and die prematurely each year," said Forest Service Urban Forester Jill Johnson, lead author of the publication.

"Most of these early tree deaths are the result of them being planted improperly. Others do not receive regular maintenance, and few are adequately protected during construction projects."

The *Tree Owners Manual* answers many common questions about planting, pruning and fertilizing, as well as how to spot signs of damage, injury and disease.

"Often there is little guidance out there when you buy a tree, other than the occasional tag. This book should provide something more substantial. It covers tree ownership all the way from when you buy a tree until one has to be removed," she added.

Just like car and appliance owner's manuals, the 40-page booklet includes a parts diagram, installation instructions, troubleshooting tips and recommended maintenance.

She said the manual is designed to apply to trees across the Northeast and Midwest, from Missouri to Minnesota and Maryland to Maine.

It can help tree owners beautify their homes, protect their investments and enjoy the fruits of their labors for years to come, said Johnson, working out of St. Paul, Minn.

The Forest Service Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry publication also lists other organizations and sources of information available to help keep trees growing and healthy.

The *Tree Owners Manual* is available on line for downloading.

On the Net: www.treeownersmanual.info

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