

*For Immediate Release*

## Autumn is a Prime Time for Planting

CHAMPAIGN, IL (November 2012) – Since autumn is the time of year for colorful, falling leaves, many people do not realize that it is also a prime time to plant new trees. After cooler weather has set in, conditions are perfect for stimulating root growth in new trees. Once roots are established throughout the fall and dormancy of winter, spring showers and summer warmth encourage new top growth.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) shares these tips for planting new trees in the autumn months:

### Tree Planting Tips

Fall is the optimum time to plant balled and burlapped trees and shrubs. However, all bare root plants should be planted later in the season, when they are completely dormant.

### Preparing the Tree

- For bare root trees, neatly cut away any broken or damaged roots. Soak the roots for a few hours prior to planting to allow them to absorb water.
- Container-grown trees should have the plastic or metal containers removed completely.
- Carefully cut through the circling roots. Remove the top half of pressed peat/paper containers.
- Balled and Burlapped (“B&B”) trees should have all the ropes cut. Pull the burlap at least one third of the way down and slit the remaining burlap to encourage root growth. If in a wire basket, cut away the top of the basket.
- Remove all tags and labels.

### Planting the Tree

- Dig the planting hole shallow and broad. The width should be two to three times the diameter of the root ball and the depth only as deep as the root ball.
- Gently place the tree in the hole, ensuring that it is perpendicular to the ground. Once you begin to backfill, it will be difficult to reposition the tree.
- Partially backfill with the soil from the hole, using water to settle the soil. Finish backfilling the hole while gently but firmly packing the soil. Be sure that you leave the trunk flare (where the roots spread at the base of the tree) visible above the soil.
- Soak the soil well, making sure no air pockets form between the roots. Wait until next year to fertilize.

If trees are planted in the fall, the root systems can then have the winter months to develop and become established. When spring arrives, this expanded root system will be better able to support the full surge of spring growth. For more information on trees and tree planting, visit [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org).

### About ISA

*The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), headquartered in Champaign, Ill., U.S., is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research and education around the world. To promote the importance of arboriculture, ISA manages the consumer education web site, [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org), which fulfills the association's mission to help educate the public about the importance and value of proper tree care. Also, as part of ISA's dedication to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry. For more information on ISA and Certified Arborists, visit [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).*