

Tucking in The Garden

This time of year is when we want to give the food forest a nice warm bed for winter. Here's how:

Mulch

Bring a 5 gallon bucket or two of mulch (tree leaves, compost, etc.) and spread them in a ring around the trees leaving a large basin around the tree. Check that the tree is at the right level relative to the ground level. If roots are showing, try to cover them with some surrounding soil. If, however, the soil appears too high up the trunk then pull some away from the trunk and spread evenly around the tree. Clear away any plants growing within 5 inches from the trunk.

Water

The garden will likely not get too much water over the winter so we want to water deeply. Gently fill the basin you have created as full as possible with water - hopefully 2-5 gallons. Ideally, this would be water at about 75 degree F temperature to give the roots a little additional warming to spur more fall root growth. In addition, putting some low nitrogen fertilizer on after the tree

have started to enter dormancy (October is about the right timing) will promote root growth in the fall and winter but minimize encouraging new branch growth.

Stake

While the water is absorbing, or after it has had a chance to absorb fully, pound a PVC stake into the ground, preferably to a depth of about 12 inches. At the OK Garden we will stake on the fence side of the tree about 2-3" away from the trunk so the tube that will be attached to the tube will fit in a centered way around the tree.

Tube

Trees can be damaged by sun scald on their trunks and by high winds. In addition, winds can be very drying. During the growing season, wind often stops tree growth altogether and so the tubes will accelerate growth during spring and summer months. The trees will flex in the wind, however, and this will insure they are not over-protected and become weak. Assemble your tree tubes loosely and place the zip ties over the PVC stake and guide the tube over the tree. If the tree is too large with too many side branches then assemble the tube around the trunk and affix it to

the tree with the zip ties. Use this opportunity to prune away any broken branches or branches that originate too low on the tree to be of use later. Tree tubes can be modified if the tree is large or has too many side branches

Mulch

Once the tree tube is seated nicely on the ground around the tree, bring the mulch ring towards the tube to make a nice snug blanket for as much of the root zone as possible. More mulch can be added but keep the amount immediately around the tube to a maximum depth of 2-3".

Label

In the interest of helping future garden users with identification, it might be nice to use indelible markers to label the tree variety. This will likely wear off after a season or two but perhaps we will have more permanent marking by then.



The Permaculture Provision
Project vision is:

**FIND YOUR WAY BACK
TO THE GARDEN**

Our mission is:

“Helping individuals, families and communities find a path of provision to health, food and water abundance.”

We try to achieve this by developing an 80 acre demonstration site in Cortez, CO trialing ways to let nature reveal its abundance for all our benefits.

Please come for a visit and lets talk about ways to help all of us achieve greater abundance that only nature can provide!

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