



From the Green Committee

January 2016

## Underneath the Branches

### *Tips for tree planting*

The time is right for planting trees. The Peachtree Corners Green Committee has provided some tips for successful tree planting this season.

- To help avoid disease and infestation, it is best to choose a **native species**. There are a variety of oak and pine trees native to Georgia, as well as maple, beech, hickory, poplar and others.
- **Spot selection** is critical for trees to thrive. Most large trees require full sun to grow. Consider the soil condition, sunlight and topography. Tulip poplar, black walnut, red maple, bald cypress, river birch and willows are common in wet areas. Along stream banks or near storm water drainage ditches, also consider understory varieties like rhododendron, mountain laurel and oakleaf hydrangea. Dry areas are better suited for persimmon, some pines, sassafras, and some oaks.
- Research has shown organic amendments to the hole are not required for **good soil preparation**. In fact, compost, peat moss and other organic amendments may hold too much moisture, leading to root rot. Dig a hole that is two times wider than the root ball, loosen the roots on the root ball and place the top of the root ball level with the ground. Break any dirt clods. After setting the tree, backfill the hole with the original soil and water the tree when finished.
- For complete planting procedures or to speak to an arborist, call 678-377-4010 or visit: <http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=B932>

The Georgia Forestry Commission offers tree seedlings, including various hardwoods and pine trees. To order seedlings from the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit:

<http://www.gatrees.org/reforestation/ordering-information/index.cfm>