

BEST PRACTICES



Fall is Ideal Planting Time

When many people think of planting, they think of spring, but fall is an even better time to add new shrubs and trees to our landscapes. In the fall, the soil is still warm from the summer, which encourages root growth. Roots continue to grow through the winter, at least until the ground freezes. Trees and shrubs planted in the fall have an advantage over those planted in the spring because they have more time to adjust before the hot summer months. Fall-planted roots grow faster, and the plants become established more quickly.

Our rainy Pacific Northwest fall and winter seasons provide an ample amount of water to help the new plantings get established. Cooler weather also means fewer pest and disease problems, as well as less competition from weeds. By the time summer finally arrives, the fall-planted shrub or tree is far better equipped to deal with heat and drought, largely due to its well-established root system.

Fall is also a great time to get involved with Stream Team at one of our many stream side planting projects. Come join us in protecting our local water resources at one of these fun projects!

Inspired to put some native or drought tolerant plants in your yard?

A large variety of plants are for sale at the annual **"Water-Wise' Plant Sale** held by the Native Plant Salvage Foundation each fall. Experts are on hand to help you select plants for the site conditions in your yard. For more information go to www.nativeplantsalvage.org

Source: Stream Team News, Fall 2011

