

Take this tree wellness quiz to see just how prepared you are to successfully raise a healthy tree.

1. You are about to acquire a tree to plant and raise at your school. The most important first step is to...

- a. purchase the appropriate tools for planting including plenty of fertilizer
- b. get your soil tested and check for insects and diseases on trees in the neighborhood
- c. *visit a trusted nursery of garden center and purchase a healthy tree*

2. You have picked the perfect tree for the perfect spot. You should now...

- a. Plan to give your tree the five years it takes to get it off to a healthy start
- b. follow the nursery's instructions for planting and maintaining the tree
- c. *Do both of the above. A commitment of time for proper planting and maintenance is critical*

3. Out of every five yard and city trees planted, four fail to live out a happy life because...

- a. *existing conditions like poor drainage, soil compaction, light, human and animal traffic and pollutants limit vigour*
- b. many trees are not suited to life in the city
- c. many trees are non-native species that aren't as hardy as local trees

4. The number one cause of tree death outside the forest is...

- a. a disease or other pest coming from other trees
- b. *planting the wrong tree for the site*
- c. human vandalism and animal damage

5. Transplanted trees suffer enormous stress. They will be more comfortable and healthy if...

- a. *they are correctly planted and mulched for optimum water retention*
- b. they get a large initial feeding of plant food immediately after planting
- c. they are staked and wrapped to protect from wind and pests

6. Planting trees should include a commitment to five years of regular maintenance including...

- a. *deep watering, weeding at the trunk base, pruning and annual fertilization*
- b. a visit from your arborist or forester annually
- c. actually, trees need very little maintenance after planting

7. With few exceptions, trees like a good drink. Trees need extra water...

- a. only during periods of long drought or in sandy soils
- b. when the leaves become slightly wilted or needles take on a bluish tint
- c. *in the equivalent of 8 litres per cm of trunk diameter twice a week*

8. When pruning a tree, you should remember to...

- a. shear sides and top trees to control shape and height
- b. cut off branches inside the "collar" and flush with the trunk
- c. *avoid shearing or topping trees and always prune branches outside the "collar"*

9. Fertilizing your tree after the first year is fine...

- a. *but should be done using recommendations from the nursery or your arborist*
- b. and should be done in combination with a lawn herbicide to reduce weed competition
- c. but should only be applied around the base of the tree

10. Mulching a tree is very important because it...

- a. adds significant nutrients and helps support the tree
- b. *suppresses weeds, holds moisture, and protects against extreme temperatures*
- c. adds to the beauty and value of the tree