

In Your Garden Plant a Tree This Fall

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The nip in the air tells us it is planting time again.

The short days and cool nights have slowed growth of trees and shrubs. And, plenty of moisture can be expected to help newly moved plants get off to a good start.

One of the main attractions to home buyers is the presence of mature trees. Wooded lots go for premium prices. Compare new developments ... deserts of houses, with the coolness and grace of old forested neighborhoods and you can see one of the benefits of trees.

Trees provide home, restful haven, and sometimes food for the sparse city animal life — the squirrels and birds that children often appreciate more than do adults.

Perhaps most important, trees absorb much of the carbon dioxide pollution released by vehicles in the city and in turn release oxygen. In fact, an actively growing one acre grove of trees releases enough oxygen in one year to support 18 people.

Our urban forest is becoming old. Much of it started at the same time and will expire at the same time. Changes in the environment and changes of weather, insects and diseases are beginning to take their toll. Unless we continuously plant trees, even in wooded areas, we could be treeless before we realize it.

Look around you. See what the proportion of trees to concrete and rooftops you see, and you will understand the need to plant trees.

Many trees do well in Chicago. To avoid a repeat of the Dutch Elm Disease disaster, plant a mix of many species.

Norway, sugar, silver and red maple are suited to various urban conditions. Consider also Ohio buckeye, river birch, katsura, American and green ash, honeylocust, red or swamp white oak and the various lindens.

Visit one of the local arboretums to see how some of these trees look in fall color, then visit a nursery and tag a tree for digging at the proper time.

The fall color will be in your yard next year and each fall thereafter.

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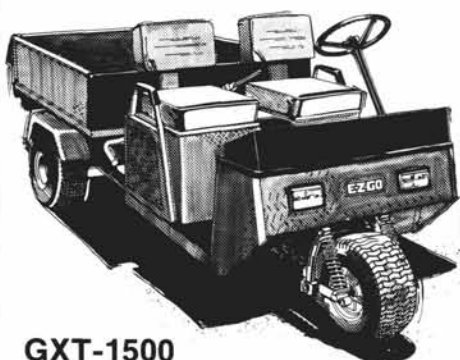
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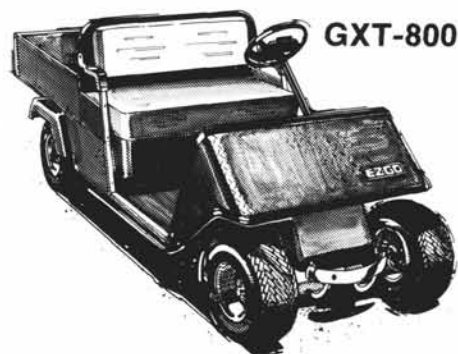


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