



## Mature Tree Transplants Instant Shade In Landscape Design

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**P**ICTURE a mature tree in all the splendor of its life-bearing processes, and next visualize it supplying the natural beauty of a tree's age to a plot of scattered shrubs and grass.

What you will soon come to realize is that the transplanting of well-developed trees answers several important needs in modern life. The practice of tree transplants is becoming more common each year as individuals see it as an effective

step to improve landscape design and as a creative solution to ecological problems.

Country clubs in general have been aware of the advantages of mature tree transplants for years, helping to lead development in this young field. The club grounds naturally require large trees rather than saplings. Acting with imagination and foresight the greenskeepers have taken advantage of the same service that will be discovered by

others in the time to come.

Let us take a look at an example of what I call a *Creative Transplant*. A local site was chosen for the development of a ski hill and winter resort. The site consisted of about 700 acres. Plans were drawn up, structures designed and work began on building the hill.

Suddenly, a unique problem arose. Approximately 500 trees occupied the area that had to be filled as part of the ski hill. A quick check of the records accounted for the exceptional variety and fine quality of the trees. A tree farm had formerly occupied a portion of the land. Through ingenuity and wise responsibility, a decision was reached to relocate the trees.

My company was called in to assist in the execution of this creative plan. The trees were transplanted to a temporary *Holding Nursery* on the site. The ski hill was developed and the structures erected. Then all the trees were transplanted once more, this time to a permanent location according to the designer's plan.

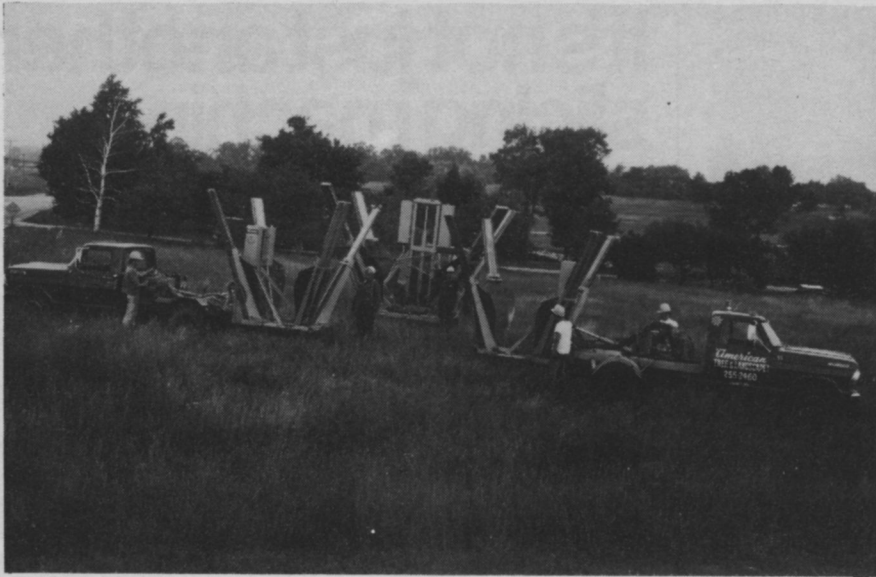
No doubt this lesson in creativity is somewhat unique and not a standard occurrence. Yet it does serve to illustrate the use of the temporary on-site *Holding Nursery* or *Tree Bank* as they are sometimes referred to by those familiar with the advantages of transplanting adult trees. With every new application of these principles, the excitement of innovation is there to open new avenues for planning.

We recently completed an assignment for a housing development that may give you a better idea of the flexibility transplanting allows. The site was laced with beautiful trees, and the developer intended to work around them, saving as many as possible. Unfortunately, as the blueprints were completed, he discovered the majority of the dwelling units would fall right about where each tree was located. Once again, imagination prevailed. The *Creative Transplant* was considered.

I was called in to review the situation and a solution was found upon which everyone could agree. The trees were transplanted to make a *living fence* encompassing the entire development. The result was a beautiful, natural barrier that insulated the entire subdivision from the noises of the city in which it was immersed.

There are cases, however, where for one reason or another the presence of mature trees is not desired  
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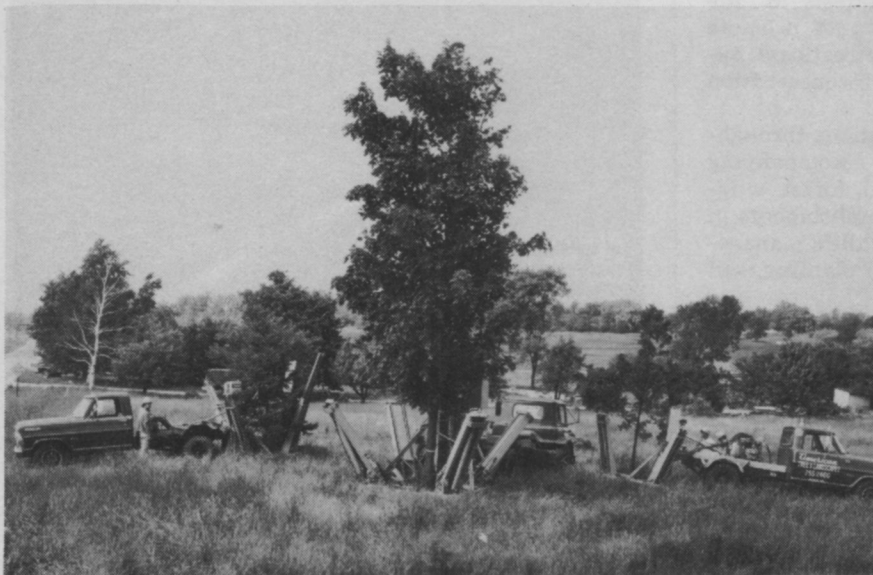
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Digging the holes for the trees new locations.



Digging out the tree to be transplanted.



Setting trees into new locations.

and a developer earmarks these existing trees for destruction. Rather than simply churning out pulp from a transplantable tree, our staff now makes good use of these trees. We move them to *The Ranch*, a local home for mentally retarded children. Eventually, the picnic grounds at *The Ranch* will be dressed with mature trees to be enjoyed by the children and their friends.

Even here, our company's charity comes second to plain good sense of fully utilizing our services. Why destroy a perfectly healthy tree when it can be transplanted to bring pleasure and practical rewards to someone else? Today, it is within our reach.

I've been pointing out the "benefits" of mature tree transplants, so perhaps it is in order to list a few:

1. Erosion is checked.
2. Property values are increased.
3. The beauty of a site is greatly enhanced.
4. Noise pollution is reduced—sound is absorbed by trees and shrubs.
5. The general ecology is improved—trees are a natural habitat for birds, squirrels, etc.
6. Protection from natural elements is provided with a "living fence," for tennis courts, housing developments, industrial parks, etc.

If the benefits of the mature tree transplant are so great then one may rightly ask, "Why hasn't this practice spread in popularity, beyond the country clubs?"

To begin with, the practice of transplanting is becoming more widespread than ever before. **The major factor holding this practice back is mere oversight.** In most cases the architect, designer, developer, etc. does not stop to determine the cost or the client's desire for mature trees to be transplanted to a site. If the proper research is done, they would discover that the cost is not prohibitive, and the client is greatly appreciative of the creative suggestion. Just as in any landscape endeavor, there are numerous variables that influence the cost of transplanting trees. From our experience, once the transplant is considered it is very rarely thwarted by economic factors. **In fact, the cost of buying young saplings, planting them, and maintaining them is many times greater than the cost of transplanting mature trees already growing on the site.**

Nevertheless, what can discourage  
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more transplants from being performed is the lack of availability of mature trees. If the trees are to be purchased from an outside source, the potential transplant may be discouraged if a particular specie or size is not found. The availability factor is an important one, and sometimes necessitates compromises in the selection of specie and size.

One way this problem could be solved is by creating  *Holding Nurseries*  where trees previously marked for destruction are temporarily transplanted for future permanent transplants. A minimum amount of maintenance is required for such a  *Holding Nursery*  and thus the endeavor becomes economically practical.

Of course, some care must be taken in selecting a site for the  *Holding Nursery* . Availability of water and a good access road are just two points that contribute to the economic practicality of such a venture.

To find a reliable source that can

successfully perform the transplant can be another problem. There just aren't that many companies who specialize in transplanting mature trees. That's why we invite anyone interested in tree transplants to write or call us for additional information. A service such as this requires sophisticated, specialized equipment and the skills to operate them. Extensive knowledge of trees, including their growth patterns, vulnerability to diseases and adaptability to transplantation is essential for a successful transplant. This knowledge must accompany a company's service if the mature transplant is to succeed.

How can you determine if a particular source is capable in this field? Ask for references of past jobs that might be similar to the one you're considering. Call the greenskeeper at a local country club. Ask a landscape designer. Discuss requirements with as many sources as possible, then compare recommendations and cost estimates. And don't be afraid to use the phone—call out-of-state sources for further comparisons. **Checking out a source costs very little. Poor judgement in transplanting could cost much more, so be thorough!**

If a company is reliable and has confidence in themselves they should, in my opinion, fully guarantee their work. It's been the practice of the American Tree and Landscape Co. to replace any tree furnished at no cost to the customer, if the tree transplant is unsuccessful. If the tree is furnished by the customer, my company generally will replace it at a reduced cost should the first tree die. There are, of course, always extenuating circumstances—lightning or hurricanes for instance. Some of these unusual conditions can be covered by an insurance policy with your present insurance company. In fact, check your policy, your trees may already be insured against such misfortunes.

Although most tree transplants can be successful if performed properly, there are variables that bring an element of risk into the picture. It is always critical that the variables be recognized and controlled. One must realize that in transplanting a tree he is putting it through a traumatic experience. From a heavily shaded area, the tree might be moved to an open, sunny and windy area. A tree grown in a protected area is not as hardy as one that has been fully exposed to weather elements. Thus, the bark may split soon after the transplant. The root system may likewise find

unfavorable conditions in the new soil. In the process of moving, there is also the possibility that the tree may be left to expose its tender roots to wind and air too long, sapping their vitality for new growth.

In addition, after the transplant is completed, proper care may not be administered that is essential to its initial adaptation, among which are a sufficient water supply and the proper fertilizer and chemical nourishment.

Even with these possible risks, the vast majority of tree transplants can be successful. The life or death of the tree will largely depend on a person's judgement and performance during the initial period of adaption. For this reason I wish to repeatedly stress the importance of evaluating your technical source critically.

### Sophisticated Irrigation System Designed Around Scarce Water

Perhaps the most sophisticated irrigation system ever designed for a golf course is being installed at the Castle Harbor Golf Course in Bermuda by Larchmont Engineering and Irrigation, Inc. of Lexington, Mass.

Due to the scarcity of water on the Island, Joseph C. Tropeano of Larchmont Engineering spent two years studying the response of the turf to various applications of water and rainfall. He observed that turfgrass responded very quickly to a very small amount of precipitation, especially at night.

A special system was designed which gave the greens first priority followed by the tees and then the fairways.

A unique timing system enables Castle Harbor to select landing areas to make the best possible use of water where it is most needed.

And in order to accomplish this remarkable feat, a Johns-Manville binar system was selected because this system had the greatest flexibility to meet with the requirements of Larchmont Engineering.

Irrigation is done at night when the soil cools down to eliminate surface evaporation and evaporation of the water while in its trajectory stream.

Night watering enables the moisture to soak into the root zone before the wind and sun has an opportunity to evaporate it.

Larchmont Engineering and Irrigation, Inc. feels that this concept in water conservation can be duplicated all over the world.