

**APPENDIX 14 - Proper Planting Practice – Staking and Guying**

# Proper Planting Practice

## Staking and Guying of Trees

Staking or guying tree can be an important step to successful tree planting and initial establishment. However, this step has to be carried out properly to achieve desirable result and not to cause more harm than good to the public and the trees.

### When should we stake trees?

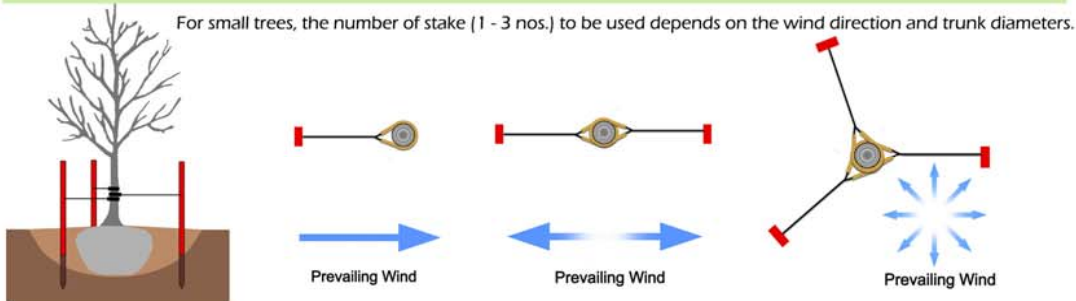
Good trees with sizable root balls (usually with underground guying system) may not require staking. Staking to be used when necessary, e.g. on exposed windy site.

### Important notes about staking and guying trees

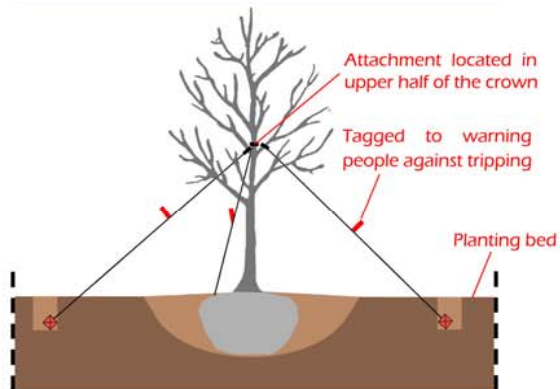
- Staking and guying should not stay too long and should be removed in general after establishment period.
- Do not drive stakes through root ball because this may damage roots.
- The stakes/guys ties should be inspected and adjusted regularly to avoid girdling of tree trunk.
- Avoid placing stakes or guying anchors outside planting bed as much as possible because they may become a tripping hazard to passers-by.

### How to stake/guy a newly planted/transplanted tree?

#### 1. Staking Method

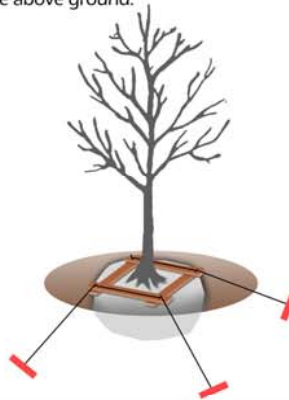


#### 2. Tree-to-Ground Guying



#### 3. Underground Tree Guying

Provide support for trees without interfering with traffic or appearance above ground.



### Myths

The higher the stakes are attached to the tree, the more stable is the support to the tree.



The more support is installed; the more stable is the tree.



The tree should be tied very tightly.

Tree grille can prevent toppling of tree.

### Facts

Stakes should be placed at around 1/3 or at a suitable height of the tree to allow some trunk movement.

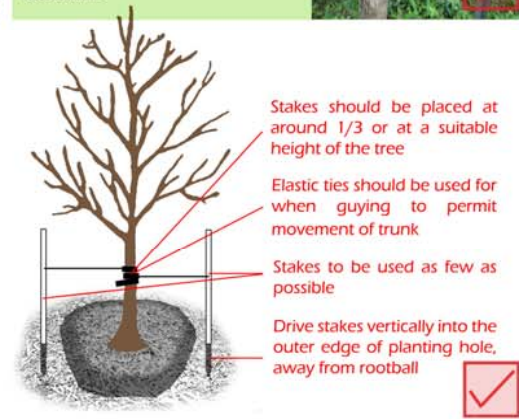


Support should be used as few as possible. As staking/guying may restrict trunk movement, limits the development of the trunk and the root system, and therefore weakens the tree's stability in the long run.

Some flexibility should be allowed because slight movement in wind encourages root growth and trunk taper development.



Tree grille is used to protect trees from root compaction only and would not provide structural support of tree. Tree grille may girdle the trunk if centre hole is too small.



#### References:

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