



Discover the Quaking Aspen (*populus tremuloides*)

These popular trees are drought-tolerant (once established), very hardy in nature, and are striking in appearance with their attractive white bark and stunning fall foliage.

Aspens also are prized for their quick growth (they can reach up to 60 feet with a spread of 20 to 30 feet).

With quick growth comes an aggressive root system, however.

For this reason, it's not recommended to plant an Aspen near any water pipes, building foundations or septic tanks that could sustain damage from their fast-growing roots. We would also recommend planting them at least 10 feet away from other trees.

IMPORTANCE OF DEEP WATERING

The development of a healthy root system is the basis for a tree's top growth and long-term health and water is the key ingredient in developing that root system.

During the first two years of life, Aspen trees and their roots are particularly sensitive to water deficits.

As they mature, deeper roots access water sources further underground, helping the tree better withstand drought, heat, and other environmental stressors.

Deep watering is crucial for preventing pests and diseases in trees. While overwatering can cause root rot and fungal infections, insufficient watering leads to stress, making the tree more susceptible to pests and disease. Proper deep watering ensures healthy root development and strengthens the tree's resilience.

Trees with deep roots are generally more resistant to disease and pests as they are better able to access the resources they need to stay healthy.

Common Aspen Issues

Improper Planting

Planting a Tree in the Wrong Place.

Aspens prefer to be planted in full sun and can tolerate partial shade. While they like a lot of sunlight, they don't handle intense heat well and prefer to grow in well-draining soil that is cool and moist. Think about how the tree will relate to its immediate surroundings and whether the location will accommodate the tree's mature height and spread.

Digging the Hole Too Deep. Proper planting depth is crucial for a tree's health and stability. The roots should be fully covered with soil to ensure adequate support and access to nutrients, while the trunk must remain above ground to prevent moisture-related issues.

Ignoring Circling Roots. The roots of container-grown trees often hit the sides of the container and begin to circle around. This can cause "girdling," where roots strangle the trunk as both continue to grow.

We recommend gently loosening the soil around the roots prior to planting; making sure they are not wrapped around themselves. Do your best to untangle them and even cut them out if necessary.

Not Staking Trees that Need Support.

Staking provides essential support for young trees as their roots establish, particularly those with large crowns and small root systems. It helps stabilize the tree, preventing excessive movement from wind, which can damage roots and hinder proper anchoring in the soil.

(Note: Warner's does not warranty Aspen trees unless they are staked.)

Improper Watering

Drought-stress causes Aspen trees to shed their leaves prematurely as a survival mechanism, reducing water loss and conserving resources during dry conditions.

Common Signs of a drought-stressed aspen

1. Yellowing or crispy leaves
2. Healthy-looking leaves suddenly fall off
3. Leaves grow near the base, but not the top

Bugs, Deers, and Fungi, Oh My

Poplar Borer. Wood-boring beetle that lays eggs on the bark. Signs include wet spots on the bark mixed with sawdust. Treat with Ferti-lome Tree & Shrub Drench in early spring.

Aphids & Thrips. Sap-sucking insects extract sap from the leaves. Additionally aphids excrete "honeydew" which can result in black sooty mold. Treat small trees with strong water spray, neem oil or insecticidal / spinosad soap. Treat larger trees in spring with Ferti-lome Systemic Insecticide.

Aspen Leaf Miner. Leaf miners feast on aspen leaves, disfiguring foliage and possibly leading to fungal disease. Beneficial nematodes will kill pupae in the soil, preventing the emergence of egg-laying adults. BT sprays or neem oil help with some larval issues.

Aspen Leaf Spots. Fungi are the main cause of leaf spots. Untreated, they can compromise the tree's health. Apply a fungicide at the onset of a wet spring season.

Oyster Shell Scale. Oyster shell scale form unsightly crusting on Aspen limbs and twigs and can cause enough damage to kill branches or even entire trees. Treat with a dormant oil in the spring before buds break.

Deer & Elk. Dining on bark and young shoots (especially in the fall mating season) and antler rubbing can damage your tree. Try barrier fencing or rigid plastic wrap, but be sure to take off plastic wrap in spring.