

Ag Column Article
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Tree Programs Scheduled

Trees are a valuable part of almost every home landscape. Home purchases are sometimes even based on the setting provided by shade trees in the landscape. Trees allow us to enjoy family activities outside in the shade during a hot summer day.

For trees to remain in the home landscape, they must be selected and placed in the landscape considering their mature size. We've all saw trees growing too close to a home or crowding a driveway. The usual thought is, "I never expected that tree to get that big!"

We will be holding our annual Celebrating Trees: Right Tree, Right Place Program on Thursday, March 21 at the Ron Ramsey Ag Center near the Tri-Cities Airport. BTES of Bristol, TN will be sponsoring a catered lunch for the workshop. Evergreen of Johnson City, Hedgewood Tree Care, and the East TN Nursery Association will also be providing sponsorship for this event.

This tree workshop will feature information on pesticides, insects, diseases, proper planning with power lines in mind, and other great information about trees in the home landscape. The program will also offer 5 pesticide points for commercial pesticide applicators. Call 423-574-1919 to pre-register for the program.

We will also be holding two fruit tree grafting workshops on Tuesday, March 19 at the Ron Ramsey Ag Center. Each participant will be able to graft trees to plant in their own home landscape. There will be other fruit tree grafting workshops in the local area.

Apple tree varieties cannot be reproduced successfully by seed. True, an apple seed will yield an apple tree, but it most likely will not be the same variety as the tree from which the seed came. Apple trees are traditionally reproduced by grafting.

The water sprouts that grow in trees each year make the best grafting wood. We call these cuttings scion wood. The cuttings must be cut while the buds are dormant to insure successful grafts. There is still some time with the colder weather to collect sprouts that we refer to as scion wood.

If you have any questions about the process of grafting or want to pre-register for the grafting workshop or the Celebrating Trees: Right Tree, Right Place program in Sullivan County, you may call us at 423-574-1919