



**VILLAGE OF MEDINA**  
**MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD**  
600 MAIN STREET MEDINA, NEW YORK 14103

*"Roots in the past, planting for the future."*

## **A High Quality Tree for Your Planting Site**

Fall leaves— *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*  
**Japanese Katsura Tree**

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When you buy a high quality tree, plant it correctly, and treat it properly, you and your tree will benefit greatly in many ways for many years. When you buy a low quality tree, you and your tree will have many costly problems even if you take great care in planting and maintenance.

Any number of problems alone or in combination with the others will greatly reduce the tree's chances for a long, attractive, healthy, and productive life. Root balls may be crushed, roots or bark may be damaged or diseased, improper pruning may have occurred, or the stock may have been sitting around a nursery yard for many months or even years! Fortunately for the citizen, the Tree Board deals only with reputable nurseries and nursery personnel who are experienced in supplying municipalities with high quality stock. This ensures that the citizen receives a superior quality tree.

So far, all of the trees planted by the Tree Board have been B&B. These are trees that have roots in soil held in place by burlap or some other fabric along with a wire basket. Caliper size is measured on the tree trunk, 4' above the root ball. This is known as DBH or diameter at breast height. A typical tree planted in Medina is measured as 2" DBH, sometimes 2 1/2" caliper size; *the size required by the village for planting on a right of way*. A tree of this size is much more likely to survive exposed conditions and establish itself over the critical

first two years. A smaller 1" to 1 1/2" caliper size, the size many nurseries carry in abundance, is sometimes OK for a protected spot in the yard or garden, but it is not appropriate for a right of way planting. A typical root ball on this size tree is approximately 24" across by 18" high. This measurement does vary from tree to tree. A tree of this size is difficult to handle. However, the Tree Board will facilitate this through the DPW who has experienced crew members and the necessary equipment to safely and effectively plant the tree.

***The following are a few things you should do and not do once your tree has been planted:***

- ***Do water regularly!*** Did you know that it has been estimated that a 35' tall tree with an actual leaf surface area of 2000 ft<sup>2</sup> could lose up to 35 gallons of water a day? New street trees require little more than regular watering to ensure vigorous growth. The question is, how much and how often? *A newly planted tree will require 6 – 8 gallons of water every 10 – 14 days, or 1.5 – 2 gallons a day.* Take rainfall or lack thereof into consideration when watering. During July, August, and September drought conditions can severely stress some trees and more watering may be required during extreme conditions. However, if young trees are watered properly on a consistent basis, they will survive, grow, and thrive even under extremely dry and hot conditions. *Village residents are encouraged to water young and recently planted street trees in the during the summer drought periods of July–September, as long as the tips in this article are followed. If you can afford to do so, your help in watering during the summer months would be invaluable, welcomed and greatly appreciated!!!*

- ***Don't over water (daily).*** Be careful not to over water. Over-watering interferes with the roots ability to exchange oxygen. Check the soil. It should be moist *not saturated*. One test may be to take a handful of soil, close, then open your hand. If the soil retains its shape – but is not sticky, the moisture content is favorable.

- ***Do inspect trees on a regular basis.*** Look for mechanical damage, insect infestation, or possible disease. Contact the Tree Board or Building Department if you suspect damage, need help or advice.

• *Don't hit the tree with mowers, weed eaters or other mechanical devices.* Such injuries, often caused by lawnmowers and especially weed trimmers, destroy the tree's most vital membranes, the layers that conduct water and minerals from the roots to the leaves and return the food produced by the leaves to the rest of the tree. *There's no quicker way to damage a tree and invite insects and disease than to regularly damage the bark with a trimmer! Don't do it!* Don't damage bark with dog chains, bikes, paint, carving or nails either. Mulch around your tree and weed by hand if necessary. More on mulching later.

## **Lawn Mower and Weed Eater Damage: Enemy #1 of Healthy Trees!**

