City of Gering 2015-2016 Tree Rebate Program
(To be completed by Property Owner)

The City of Gering is sponsoring a Tree Rebate Program for the 2015-2016 year, in an effort to encourage property owners within the city limits of Gering to plant trees. The Rebate Program, as developed by the Gering Tree Board, is available to purchasers of trees under the following conditions:

1. **In order to receive a rebate, the purchaser must follow the planting guidelines as approved by the Gering Tree Board. A copy of this guideline is attached to this form.**

2. **The purchaser must present a sales slip stating the type, size and cost of the tree to the City Clerk at the Gering City Offices. Upon presenting the sales slip, the site of the planting will be inspected by a representative of the Tree Board to make sure it was planted in accordance with the guidelines.**

3. **A fifty percent rebate up to $100.00 will be paid upon meeting guidelines 4, 5, 6 and 7 listed below. A maximum of $2,000.00 will be used to fund the Tree Rebate Program on a first come first served basis. Funds are limited and applications must be submitted no later than sixty days from the date of tree purchase.**

4. **The tree must be planted in the front yard.**

5. **Only one tree will be rebated per property owner per year.**

6. **Trees must be a minimum of six feet (6') in height.**

7. **Trees must be one of the following types:**

Linden (all cultivars)	Nannyberry Tree
Oak (Bur, White & Chinkapin	Rocky Mountain Maple
Hophornbeam	Flowering Crab (Fireblight Resistant)
Hackberry	Flowering Hawthorne
Honeylocust	Black Walnut
Kentucky Coffeetree	Hybrid Elms

REVISED 4/10

8. **Trees must be purchased by residents of Gering from businesses located in the County of Scotts Bluff.**

Gering Tree Board
Selection of Quality Landscape Trees
and
Proper Planting Methods

1. Select a tree species that is adapted to the western Nebraska environment (i.e. plant hardiness zones 2, 3 or 4). Consult extension publication, "Landscape Trees for Western Nebraska" (Panhandle Forestry newsletter SE91-1), available at your county extension office.

2. Select a tree suitable for the planting site. Ask questions about mature height and spread, fruiting habits, potential insect/disease problems, winter hardiness and drought tolerance.

3. Locally grown trees selected and propagated from trees of local origin are best; next best choice are trees whose known origin is from localities having climate, latitude and altitude similar to that of Nebraska. Avoid originating and/or grown in nurseries south of Nebraska.

4. Avoid fast growing tree species whenever possible; they usually have week, brittle wood and are short lived. Buy desirable, slower growing trees.

5. Select a tree with a healthy, well developed root system. Trees are available in three forms, with the following guidelines:

6. Avoid a tree with a small, undersized root system; diameter of root system or ball should be 10 or MORE times trunk diameter (measured 6" above ground).

7. Select a tree with a single, straight central leader and symmetrical crown that has not been heavily pruned (i.e. "headed back"); do NOT buy a tree with a double leader or the leader removed.

8. Inspect the trunk closely; trees with discolored, sunken or swollen areas on the bark should be bypassed.

9. Avoid trees showing visible signs of insect bore holes, sun scald, cracks, bark scrapes or improper branch pruning (i.e. stub or flush cuts). Beware of the tree wrap hiding these trunk and bark problems; remove wrap to see what is underneath.

10. LEARN ABOUT TREES! Contact your local extension agent, forester, nurseryman or professional arborist.

Landscape Tree Planting

1. Locate the proper site in your yard for the size and kind of tree you are going to plant. Do NOT plant large growing trees directly under utility lines.

2. Remove all sod from the planting site in an area 5 times the diameter of the root ball; minimum diameter of the circle should be 5 feet. Spade up the site to a depth of 10-12" and leave in a rough, cloddy condition.

3. Dig a hole in the center of the site wide enough for the root ball and only 7/8" as deep as the root ball. The bottom of the ball should be placed on firm soil such that the top of the root ball is elevated 2-3" ABOVE original soil line.

4. All root packaging (i.e. twine, wire basket, plastic or metal container, paper pot or burlap) should be removed from the root ball and planting hole. Backfill the hole with the original soil. Do NOT add amendments (i.e. fertilizer, peat moss, manure, and, clay) to the backfill.

5. Mulch the entire planting site with an organic mulch (i.e. wood/bark chips, lawn clippings, etc.), 4-6" deep.

6. Water the tree thoroughly to settle the backfill around the roots.

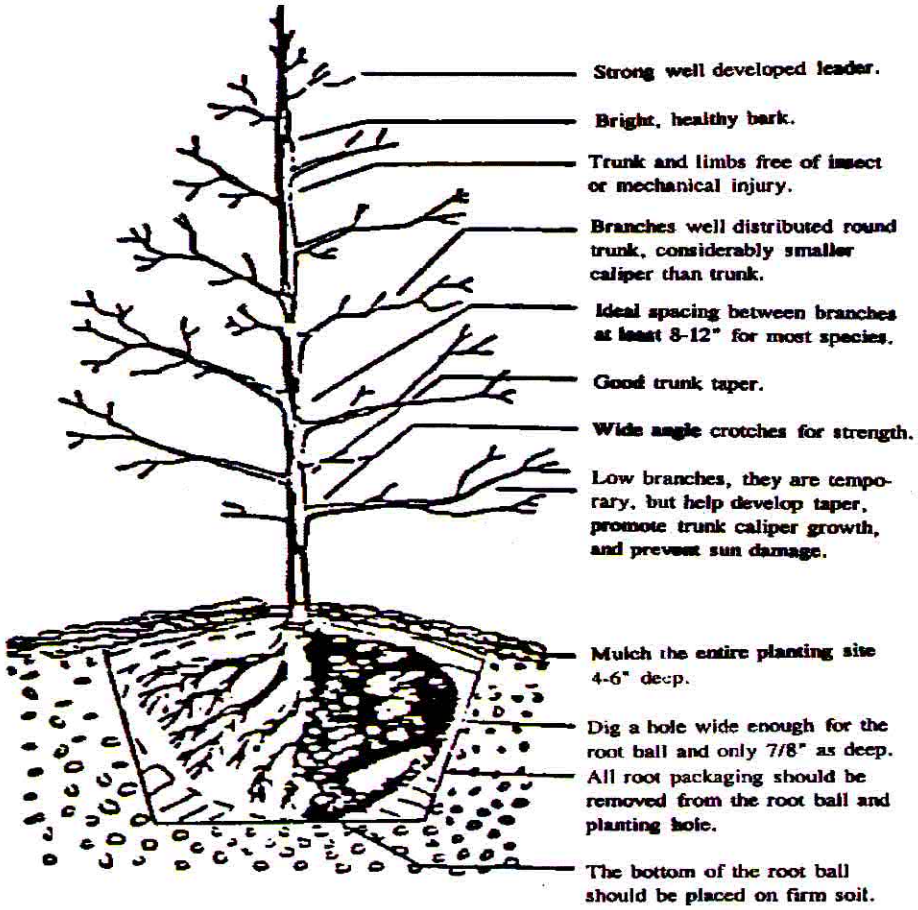
7. Stake only when necessary. Most balled/burlapped and container grown trees do not need staking. Evergreens and broadleaf trees that appear top heavy may need staking. NEVER leave trees staked for more than two growing seasons.

8. Wrap thin, smooth barked trees, only. Apply wrap in the fall and remove in the spring. Alternative is to paint the trunk with white; LATEX paint.

9. Use caution when applying herbicides around trees, many herbicides can cause severe damage to trees if not used properly. Read the herbicide label.

11. The REAL cause of many tree problems is PEOPLE! Lawn mowers, weed whips, weed-feed lawn fertilizers and tree topping are common examples. THINK BEFORE YOU DO! Contact your local extension agent, forester, nurseryman or professional arborist.

The above guide was compiled by Doak Nickerson - District Extension Forester, Jim Schild - Scotts Bluff/Morrill County Extension Agent and Tom Wiens - Arborist. 2/91



Bare Root: Root branching should be symmetrical with roots oriented down and out from the main trunk; root system should be moist.

Balled & Burlapped: Root ball should have a firm soil with trunk securely tied. Avoid a tree with a broken "ball" or circling root at the base of the trunk. Always cut circling roots if present.

Container: Do NOT buy trees that are "root grown bound" (i.e. kinked or circling in the container. Always remove can, basket or pot when planting, make at least four vertical cuts down the root ball when planting.

Name:_____

Address:_____

Purchased From: _____Date:_____

Planted By: _____Date:_____

Draw location of the tree in relation to the house and other permanent objects.

Approved by:_____

(Park Board Representative)