

# Ground Facts



September 2000

Volume 2, Issue 6

## Seasons change



Fall is in the air, and the Land Use Team is preparing for many projects. We will be planting shrubs and bare root seedlings in the mulch beds at the team member entrances. This understory and shrub layer will contribute more cover and food for wildlife, primarily small mammals and birds. We have decided to use bare root seedlings rather than planting seeds and nuts to make identification of new tree seedlings easier. Also, it will help speed up the **succession** process.

We are always searching for any ideas, suggestions, volunteers, so please let us know what your interests are.

**Succession is the process of vegetation development over time. Basically, various species populations are replaced by new species. For instance, in a disturbed old field, sumacs will generally arrive as the first (pioneer) species. These are then replaced with others species that survive longer, such as \_\_\_ and \_\_\_. Then, these species are replaced with hardwoods, usually oaks and hickories.**

### FALL PLANTING TIPS!!!

Contrary to what many people think, early fall is the optimum planting time. This is because the roots can grow during the first fall and winter, and when spring arrives, the tree has a stable root system and can grow. Below are some tips for planting balled and burlapped trees:



- 1) Dig a hole twice as wide and slightly shallower than the root ball.
- 2) Backfill some of the dirt and place the tree in the hole. Make sure the rootball is ½ to 1 inch above the ground with no roots showing.
- 3) Make sure to remove any twine or wire from around the rootball to allow the roots to spread.
- 4) Loosen the burlap from around the rootball.

- 5) Add soil to fill in around the tree. Tamp the soil lightly to collapse air pockets.
- 6) Water thoroughly after planting.
- 7) Mulch around the tree to a depth of 2-3 inches.

**\*\*\*Be sure to plant native species that are better adapted to survive the hot and dry summers of Middle Tennessee. For a list of these species, contact Karen @ x5029.\*\*\***

## Year 2001 Proposal

The Land Use Team is working on a proposal for next year. We hope to strengthen the UT/Saturn Partnership through a series of projects that better capture specific strengths of the UT faculty to meet Saturn opportunities and needs. A few items on our agenda include an integrated pest management analysis and plan, a site-wide landscape chemical evaluation, landscaping for energy conservation (air conditioning savings), and research of land disposal of waste streams.

## Tree of the Month: Red Maple

### *Acer rubrum*

Soon you will notice the flaming red leaves of the red maple. We have had much success with this outstanding shade tree on the Saturn site because of its tolerance of most soil conditions and fast growth. The red maple is naturally associated with hardwood forests, so it will be a continuous resident of the entrance plantings. The red maple has the greatest north-south distribution of all tree species along the East Coast.

Ground Facts is a monthly update on the application of new ideas to reduce grounds maintenance costs, improve aesthetics, and increase environmental benefits at the Saturn site. Work is sponsored by Facilities Maintenance at Saturn and the University of Tennessee in a partnership agreement. For questions or comments, please contact Karen Smith at (931) 486-5029; email KareELo@aol.com.