The Way Trees Work – How to Help

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How trees live and grow is a fascinating subject that some people pursue for a lifetime. But by knowing even a few basics, it is possible to better understand why some of the things we do to trees help their growth while others hinder it.

Not long ago a consulting forester wrote to the Arbor Day Foundation urging that an issue of Tree City USA Bulletin be devoted to the basics of tree growth. The forester wrote, “It continually surprises me just how little most people know about how a tree grows and functions.”

The trees have offered their gifts to man. But the glory of trees is more than their gifts; 'Tis a beautiful wonder of life that lifts,
From a wrinkled seed in the earthbound clod, A column, an arch in the temple of God,
A pillar of power, a dome of delight, A shrine of song and a joy of sight...
— Henry Van Dyke

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