

# Home & Garden

## Take care of trees – they help decrease carbon dioxide in the air

Trees are a valuable addition to any yard.

### Temperature and trees

Trees planted around buildings cool the same amount of air as 15 room-sized air conditioners.

When planted around air-conditioned buildings, they reduce the load on the air-conditioning system by cooling the air. This can reduce

energy costs by 18 to 50 per cent.

Trees planted around buildings also act as a wind break by reducing the speed of winter winds. This reduces winter heating costs by four to 22 per cent.

Using less fuel in winter also lessens the atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

### Trees and air pollution

One mature tree can generate enough oxygen for a family of four and an acre will supply enough oxygen to meet the needs of 18 people.

Trees are also important air purifiers.

During the process of photosynthesis, plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen.

One mature tree will absorb almost 26 pounds of carbon dioxide annually. That is roughly equal to the pollution created by driving one car 17,600 km.

Researchers have recently confirmed that carbon found in the tissue of a tree comes entirely from the air.

The age and vigour of the tree are important factors in its ability to purify

the air. A healthy 50-year-old sugar maple will annually convert 120 times more carbon dioxide, than a tree that is 10 years old.

### Being kind to trees

In modern subdivisions, many trees die within 15 or 20 years and often the conditions of the root bed are to blame.

During construction, the subsoil has been heavily compacted by machinery. By the time the building is completed, the soil is like concrete with a few inches of surface topsoil.

Trees planted into this soil will not thrive without

special care.

If you are planting a new tree, follow the planting instructions carefully.

Use a transplant fertilizer and water the tree frequently until it is established.

Watering and fertilizing are also the best way to prevent insect and disease infestations.

If insects become a problem, take a specimen to a nursery or garden centre and ask for advice. In the case of birch borers and leaf miners, an ounce of prevention is often worth several pounds of cure.

Pruning will remove potential sites for disease and allow strong limbs to develop. It will allow you to shape the tree as you wish and reduce potential

drought stress caused by unnecessary foliage.

### Give them some air

To ensure that your trees have the oxygen they need at the root zone, keep parked cars, patios, storage sheds and driveways away from trees.

When properly maintained, trees will provide years of beauty and clean air and help cool our homes in summer and protect them in winter.

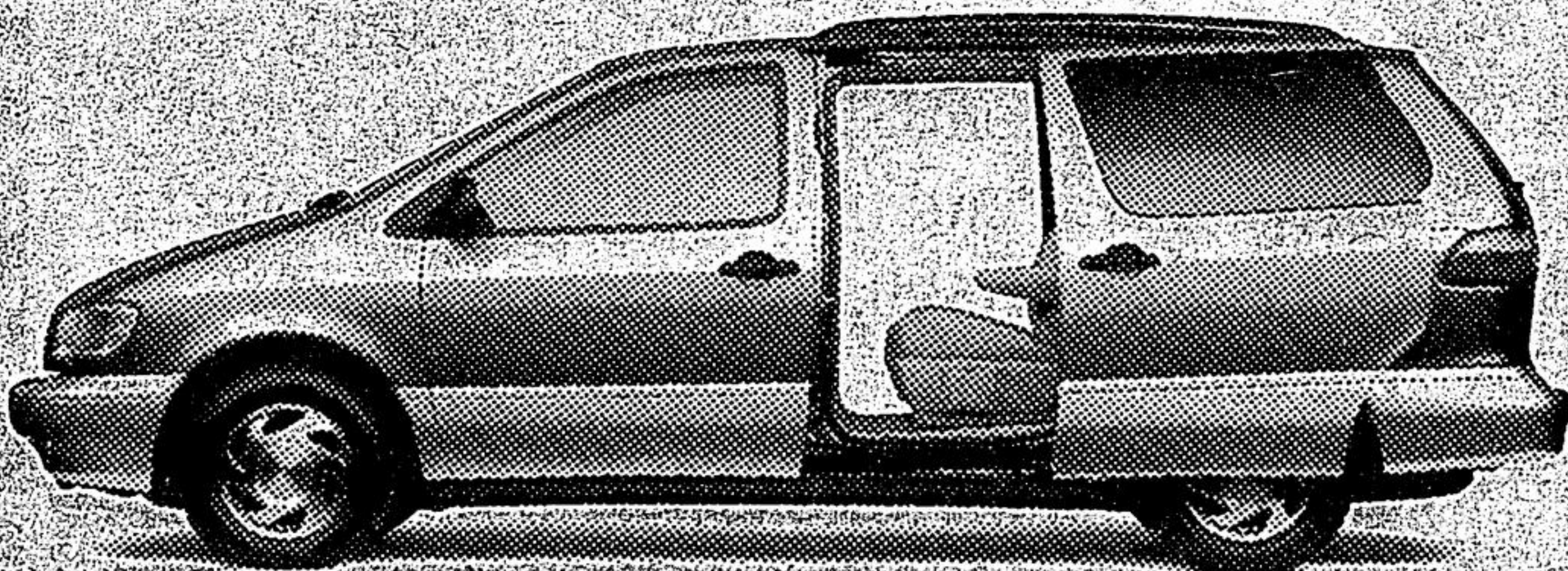
This article was submitted by The Fertilizer Institute of Ontario Inc.



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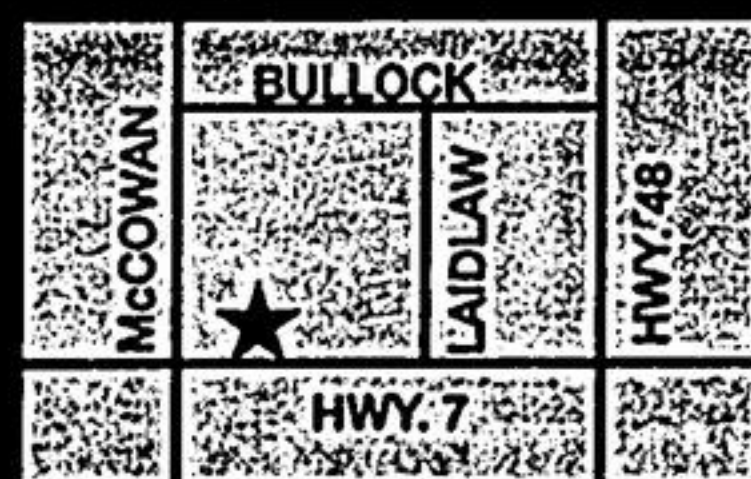


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