

Denver Forestry Division Fact Sheet

Call (720) 913-0651 for more information

PEGSMOR

Planting, Establishment, Growth, Structure, Maturity, Over-maturity, Replacement

PEGSMOR is a way of looking at a tree and understanding its needs through its lifetime. It is not an end all be all, but a guideline. In the public sector, an arborist, forester, resource manager, etc. can project lifetime maintenance needs and costs for a tree, or trees with PEGSMOR. In the private sector, you can gauge what needs your tree or trees will have as they grow. With PEGSMOR, homeowners can care for their trees without falling head-over heels into attrition.

Planting: One Year Duration Years of Life: 1 Preplant planning

- Site analysis
- Species selection
- Ordering
- Site preparation
- Physical planting
- Watering, mulching, perhaps staking, wrapping and/or welling.

Establishment: Three plus years (add one year for each inch caliper over 3") Years of Life: 4

Root replacement period. Tree is mulched, watered and perhaps staked and wrapped.

Growth: Five to ten years duration Years of Life: 14

Tree is growing but has not reached the desired height of the primary branches.

- Prune every three years.
- Remove deadwood
- Eliminate weak crotches
- Eliminate interfering branches
- Water depending on dryness. Winter water.
- Replenish mulch / keep grass away.

Structure: Five to ten years duration Years of Life: 24

Tree is tall enough to select the primary and secondary branches that will be the main structure throughout the tree's life.

- Prune every five years for most trees.
- Remove deadwood.
- Select primary and secondary branches.
- Eliminate weak crotches.
- Eliminate interfering branches.
- Winter water.
- Replenish mulch.

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Maturity: Twenty to sixty years, depending on species. Years of Life: 44-84

Tree develops its full crown and width. Growth all but stops during the upper end of this stage, and will remain in this stage until it declines.

- Prune every seven or ten years depending on species, environmental events / stress.
- Remove deadwood.
- Eliminate interfering tertiary and quaternary branches.
- Eliminate weak tertiary and quaternary branches.
- Winter water.

Over-maturity: Ten to twenty years duration. Years of Life: 54-104

Tree is declining faster than it is growing. Primary and secondary branches begin to rot and die back becoming defective. Root flare may also become defective. Prune every three years for most trees.

- Remove deadwood
- Remove, or stabilize defective branches.

Replacement: One to two years duration. Years of Life: 56-106

Tree has declined to the point of being totally unsound, or primary branches have been pruned to the point where the tree does not have a viable structure. This stage is needed to finish and subsequently continue the cycle.

- Remove tree.
- Grind stump.
- Replace soil.
- Plant new tree.

Insect and disease problems chosen for treatment are handled (forest) yard-wide, not necessarily during and given stage.