An age old method of securing a tree to stakes or guy wires is to run a wire through old pieces of garden hose wrapped around the tree. Although this practice was thought to prevent damage to the bark of the tree, using wire and garden hose should be avoided. This method may prevent cutting of the wire into the bark, but the hose does not distribute the pressure created by tension on the wire. This, in turn, causes restriction of the phloem, cambial area, and new xylem in the vicinity of the wire.

The proper method to secure cables, guy wires or stakes is to use hessian webbing strips or one of the many rubber or plastic tree ties available from nursery supplies. The strapping is placed around the tree in a figure eight method and then around the wire stake allowing for movement and room for the plant to grow. The tree tie should balance the evenly between the stakes and take into consideration the prevailing wind direction etc.

Whether guyed or staked, trees must not be held too rigidly. A certain amount of natural sway is needed. Research has shown that trees guyed or staked too rigidly fail to develop strong root, have poor trunk taper, and become weakened. Such trees tend to lean when ties are later removed.

Where soils are too sandy to hold anchor stakes firmly, it is best to employ staking methods using posts. This method is also preferable, when securing trees in public areas or where foot traffic, playing children, and sports activities are anticipated. Guy wires can become "trip" or "hang" wires can result in serious injuries.

**SINGLE VERSUS MULTIPLE STAKING**

Whether a single stake or multiple are used is dependant on the size of the plant, the prevailing wind conditions and direction, the amount of rainfall and the soil conditions. Obviously in areas of adverse weather conditions a three-way staking method is best.

**HEIGHT OF ATTACHMENT**

The point at which stakes are attached varies from tree to tree and the conditions surrounding the tree and the size of the tree. Some natural sway and movement is desirable, so the tree can develop naturally and gain strength. Attachments should be as low as possible on the trunk yet still prevent the tree from falling over. A good rule of thumb is between 1.0m – 2.0m above the root ball.