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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HIGHGROVE PARTNERS PLANTS ATHENA ELM  
ON THE GROUNDS OF THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION**

**Austell, Georgia, (October 31, 2008)** – HighGrove Partners in cooperation with Governor Perdue, First Lady Mary Perdue, The Georgia Urban Agriculture Council, Georgia Facilities Management Agency, Select Trees of Athens and Arboguard, planted an Athena Elm on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Spence Rosenfeld, President of Arboguard Tree Service recommended the Athena Elm based on consultation with the Governor's staff and the Georgia Green Industry Association (GGIA). GGIA acquired the tree donation and delivery from Select Trees' non-profit division, Select Sustainable Tree Trust (SSTT) and HighGrove Partners dug the hole and planted the tree.

Fall and winter planting is an environmentally sound and important time of year to plant. Mild temperatures during the winter season allow trees, shrubs and many other plants to root with a minimum of watering. More important, a well-rooted plant will require significantly less water in the spring and summer when temperatures begin to rise. For this reason, many Georgia gardeners prefer fall and early winter planting for its environmentally sound practice.

"Fall planting of trees and shrubs is one of the practices we want to encourage in building a culture of conservation," said Governor Perdue. "By planting drought-resistant and disease-resistant trees, Georgians will be able to conserve our resources and keep our state beautiful."

"Now is the best time to plant trees and shrubs in Georgia," said Mary Kay Woodworth, president of the Georgia Urban Agriculture Council. "Fall planting is smart, environmentally sound and produces a beautiful spring and summer garden."

Governor Perdue signed an Executive Order on this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October that replaces an order that halted installation of new landscaping at state facilities. The new Executive Order continues to call on state agencies to follow water conservation practices. The order also establishes the "Governor's Water Conservation Challenge." Governor Perdue is challenging businesses, local governments and school systems to match the state's commitment to reducing water usage by five percent over the next two years and by two percent every year thereafter. For more information, please visit Governor Sonny Purdue's website at [www.gov.georgia.gov](http://www.gov.georgia.gov).

**About HighGrove Partners**

HighGrove Partners is one of the Top 50 landscaping companies in the United States and is one of the largest privately owned diversified landscape companies in metro Atlanta. HighGrove Partners provides a full range of landscape services to commercial properties including landscape architecture, design/build (residential and commercial), maintenance, seasonal color, irrigation and lighting.