



Branchin' Out

Professional Tree Care

We have to recognize that the tools, techniques and approach we use for a newly planted tree may not be appropriate, when we are trying to maintain a mature tree.

We can reflect on our own development. As teenagers, we ate anything, had limitless amounts of energy and saw ourselves as invulnerable. Can we say the same now that we are a bit older? This is true as we consider tree development. Mature trees are not going to be as tolerant of manipulation and they don't really need to grow. We know that mature trees respond more slowly. It takes a long time for the physical stress and the changes in the environment to be seen in the trees growth.

It is safe to say that we can identify 15 to 20 types of trees that we see repeatedly in the landscape. It is our job to know these different types of trees intimately. We cannot treat a Birch tree the same way we do a Cedar. We need to be able to acknowledge that one species

will require something different.

We have a limited ability to fix a tree that is in severe decline: Trees whose structure have been compromised or are in very poor health. We have to acknowledge that prevention is worth the pound of cure.

Good tree care starts with quality plants. Homeowners need to be aware of what to look for when purchasing trees for their landscape. A major factor in planting a tree is to make sure it's the right tree for the right place. We need to know the area, is it wet or dry, are there overhead wires, is it full

sun or partly shaded, these questions and more need to be answered before

a selection of what tree should be planted can be made.

At Allen's Tree Service Inc., we take great pride in knowing that we follow the best principle guidelines when we approach any tree, for any job, from pruning, removals, fertilizing or insect/disease control. We have done our homework and we are educated and professional in the work we perform.



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Trees & Construction

As cities and suburbs expand, wooded properties can be worth as much as twenty percent more than those without trees, and people value the opportunity to live among trees.

Unfortunately, the process involved with construction can be deadly to nearby trees. Unless the damage is extreme, the tree may not die immediately, but could decline over several years.

The most important step to preserve trees on building sites is to hire a professional Certified Arborist during the planning stage. He/she can help you decide which trees can be saved, and can work with the builder to protect the trees throughout construction.

- Construction equipment can injure the above ground portion of a tree – injuries which are permanent and if extensive, can be fatal.
- The digging and trenching that are necessary to construct a house and install underground utilities will likely sever a portion of the roots of many trees in the area. The amount of damage a tree can suffer from root loss depends, in part,

upon how close to the tree the cut is made. Another problem that may result from root loss is that the potential for the trees to fall over is increased.

- The heavy equipment used compacts soil, dramatically reducing the amount of pore space.
- Piling soil over the root system or increasing the grade will smother the roots. It only takes a few inches of added soil to kill a sensitive, mature tree.
- Removal of neighboring trees, or opening the shared canopies of trees will expose the remaining tree to sunlight and wind. This makes the newly exposed trees susceptible to sun scald and increases the trees risk of breaking from wind or ice loading.

Your Certified Arborists and builder should work together in planning the construction. The builder may need to be educated regarding the value of the trees on your property and the importance of saving them. Sometimes small changes in placement or design of your house can make a great difference in whether a critical tree will survive.

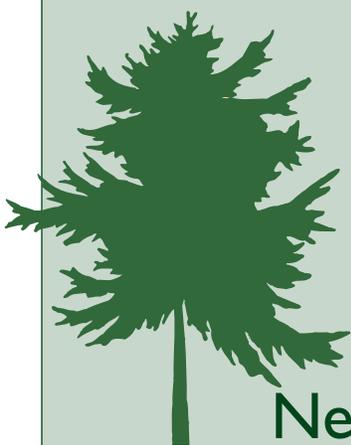
Watering Trees and Shrubs

Though many areas of Missouri have adequate levels of soil moisture, others do not. Deep, infrequent watering and mulching can help trees become established. Newly transplanted trees need at least ten gallons of water per week. The secret is getting that water to soak deeply into the soil, so it evaporates more slowly and is available longer to the trees roots. One way to do this is to punch a small hole in a five gallon bucket and fill it with water. Let the water dribble out slowly next to the tree. Refill the bucket once, and you have applied ten gallons. Very large transplanted trees and trees that

were transplanted two to three years ago will require more water.

A perforated soaker hose is a great way to water a newly established bed or foundation planting. In sun-baked soil, you may need to rough up the surface with a hoe or tiller to get the water to infiltrate easily. If you are seeing surface runoff, reduce the flow, or build a beam with at least a four-foot diameter around the base of the tree to allow the water to percolate down through the soil instead of spreading out.

Soil should be wet at least twelve inches deep. Use a metal rod, wooden dowel, electric fence post or something similar to check depth.



News from the Top

News & Advice from Gary Allen,
President of Allen's Tree Service



Most homeowners may not realize that all tree services are not the same. If you look closely, you will realize that there are major differences between tree services. At Allen's Tree Service Inc. we

consider ourselves a professional tree service, providing professional services.

We carry a 2,000,000-dollar liability and worker's compensation policy. Not only for our protection, but for our clients. Our clients can rest assured knowing that if anything happens to their property or to one of our employees while on their property, that we have ample insurance coverage.

Our company employs ISA Certified Arborists. The International Society of Arboriculture requires a minimum of 3 years experience in the tree care industry before anyone can even qualify to take the exam.

We have the knowledge, skill and equipment to maintain attractive landscapes that are a positive and personal reflection of our clients.

Tree care is a substantial, long-lasting investment in your valuable assets; take the time to select a knowledgeable professional to care for your landscape.



Iron Chlorosis

Many trees, shrubs, and other ornamental plantings in our area suffer from iron deficiency. Induced by high (Alkaline) soil pH. A primary symptom resulting from iron deficiency is leaf yellowing, also known as chlorosis. Chlorosis is especially a problem with trees planted along streets and around homes where the original topsoil was removed or mixed with subsoil. Pin Oak, Sweetgum, White Oak, Magnolia, Holly, Dogwood, Apple, Birch, Arborvitae, Hydrangea, Rhododendron, and Azalea frequently show symptoms of iron chlorosis.

SYMPTOMS

Iron deficiency causes yellowing on the newest foliage. The leaf veins remain green while the tissue between the veins turns a pale yellow, leaving a network of darker green veins on a light green or yellow background. If severe, the entire leaf may become crème-colored, while the tips and margins of leaves turn brown. Plants severely affected will be stunted, have poor root development, and may eventually die. It is not uncommon

to have an affected and a healthy tree of the same species growing side by side.

CAUSE

The major cause of chlorosis is a deficiency of one of the essential micronutrients such as iron or manganese. This deficiency occurs not because the nutrients are lacking in the soil, but because they are unavailable due to a high pH soil. At these higher soil pH levels, many trees and shrubs are incapable of taking up adequate amounts of iron or manganese. It may also be caused by any number of stresses including: root damage, temperature extremes, herbicide misapplication, too much light, too little water or too much water, insect feeding, or disease pathogens.

However, iron deficiency is the most common problem, manganese and zinc deficiencies may occur as well and mimic the symptoms of iron deficiency. Maple trees, especially Red Maples, are especially sensitive to manganese deficiency.

CORRECTING IRON CHLOROSIS

Fertilization: deep root fertilization of the entire root system for 2 to 3 consecutive years. Depending on the trees response, fertilizing may be done every other year, after the initial 2 to 3 years of treatments.

TRUNK INJECTIONS

Mauget systemic injection units apply iron and other nutrient directly into the trunk of the tree. Application should be made prior to leaf growth in early spring, if injected after leaves unfold the injections are less effective. Depending on the severity of the chlorosis injections may need to be done on a yearly basis for a few consecutive years.

There is no cure for iron chlorosis, but by keeping trees healthy, the chlorosis can be controlled. Severe chlorosis of mature trees is rarely reversible.

The most effective way to prevent iron chlorosis is to plant species or varieties that can do well in your soil conditions without special treatments.

We'd Love to Hear from You!

Allen's Tree Service Inc is happy to assist you with any services you may need more information about. Please cut this out, mark the items you are interested in and mail this to the address below or just give us a call... we look forward to hearing from you.

I am interested in...

- Tree/Limb Removal
- Selective Pruning
- Dead Wooding
- Deep Root Fertilization
- Stump Grinding
- Mulch
- Insect/Disease Control
- Land/Lot Clearing
- Fruit Eliminator

Additional Questions/Information: _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

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Fall Webworm

Fall defoliating insects are not likely to kill young trees. Home-owners call reporting that the leaves on their trees have disappeared overnight, with no insects seen in the vicinity. In some cases, the defoliation is more gradual and the culprits are readily observable. There is a multitude of insects capable of stripping the leaves from trees in late summer and fall.

The damage done by late summer or fall defoliating insects is usually not life threatening to the host tree. Often, affected trees will produce a second set of leaves and will then go normally into dormancy as the fall progresses. In most cases, once the damage has been done, the insects move on and are not likely to be affected by insecticide sprays applied to the plant.

The best way to deal with this insect is to sit back and admire its web making productivity. Insect populations tend to go in cycles, building to impressive numbers and then declining as natural enemies take their tolls.

There are options that go easy on natural enemies. For small populations of fall Webworm, pruning may be an option. Another predator-friendly management practice is to disrupt the webs mechanically or with a hard stream of water to allow birds easy access to the larvae. Spot spraying of pesticides may be needed on hard to reach areas of the trees or on some large trees.



Our company has been serving both residential and commercial clients in St. Charles and St. Louis County for more than 27 years!

We are members of the St. Louis Arborist Association, the Tree Care Industry Association, the International Society of Arboriculture, the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce, and the Lake St. Louis Chamber of Commerce.

Some of the services we offer include:

- ▶ Tree/Limb Removal
- ▶ Selective Pruning
- ▶ Dead Wooding
- ▶ Deep Root Fertilization
- ▶ Power Stump Grinding
- ▶ Insect/Disease Control
- ▶ Emergency Storm Service



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"Branchin' Out" is published quarterly to bring you information that will make your life easier and more enjoyable. We would appreciate it if you would pass this newsletter along to friends and relatives who might be in need of any of our services. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or would like to request an additional issue of "Branchin' Out" please call or visit us online.

www.allenstreeservice.com

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