



Branchin' Out

Protecting Trees in Winter

During an annual cycle, a tree goes through various phases; vegetative, reproductive or dormant. During a vegetative phase, the tree produces a number of new shoots with foliage that actively photosynthesizes most seed producing trees. Then they enter the reproductive phase, when they produce flowers or fruits, within which seeds develop. After a tree accomplishes its goal of reproduction, it goes through a dormant

phase, when its physiological activities slow down. The dormant phase is more visible to the naked eye in deciduous trees than in evergreens.

All trees may benefit from protection to a certain extent, from temperatures below freezing, frost, winter storms, winter drought, or flooding due to excessive winter rains.

Trees may appear to be inactive in winter but, in reality, their metabolism only slows down. As temperatures

decrease, physiological activities of plants slow down. This is the dormant phase for most trees with no new branch shoots developing, although roots may continue to grow if rather slowly, in unfrozen soils.

Trees in dormancy need to remain healthy, free from pathogenic

microorganisms and destructive insects. Insects hibernate in tree crevices and on the ground. They all wait for the weather to warm up to continue with their destructive lifecycles.

Mulching

Young trees are more vulnerable to extreme fluctuations in temperature. Warm days and cold nights cause repeated thawing and freezing, which disturbs the root system and may eventually uproot a young transplant. To prevent this, maintain even soil temperatures by covering the soil around young trees with mulch or wood chips.

Pruning

Prune dead, diseased and overlapping branches. Pruning during winter, even in climate zones with freezing temperatures, snowstorms, and frost appears to be good for shade trees, fruit trees or mature trees. Dormant pruning reduces the number of buds to share the reserves stored in the roots, so each bud will grow more vigorously. Winter pruning is recommended for young

deciduous trees and shrubs, and fruit trees to encourage them to grow more vigorously.

Horticultural (Dormant) Spray

Horticultural spray may be a good idea for deciduous trees, ornamentals, fruit trees and shrubs. Horticultural oil sprays control overwintering insect eggs—such as aphids, mites and other pests on fruit trees and other trees and plants through suffocation.

Watering

Dry spells in winter or hot daytime temperatures may lead to desiccation. If soils are not frozen, check the soil moisture levels during these adverse conditions and water whenever necessary.

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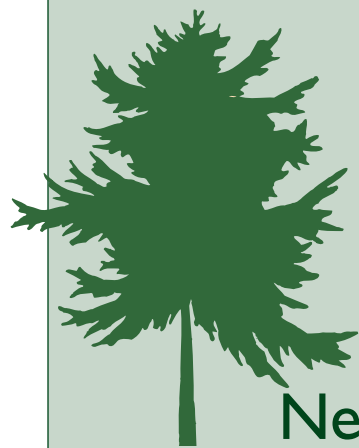
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News from the Top

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



Most people might assume that tree service companies don't work much in the winter-time. The opposite is true about our company; we stay busy all year long.

Just because it gets cold outside doesn't mean there isn't

any work to do. Our crews can do tree pruning and removals all year long. As long as the proper pruning cuts are being made on the trees, they can be pruned any time of the year. Our crews have the experience and the know how to identify which branches are dead or alive when they deadwood a tree. The snow might slow the crews down some if they yards are wet, but once the ground dries or freezes they get right back to work.

When it snows, things don't slow down. Our crews go out and snow plow, from homeowner's driveways and day care centers to churches and shopping centers. Our dedicated crews work long hours such as Christmas and New Years. What great crews we have.

So just because it's wintertime doesn't mean that we don't have work to do.

Tree Selection



Tree selection is an important investment decision a homeowner makes when landscaping a new home or replacing a tree. Considering most trees have the potential to outlive the people who plant them. The impact of this decision is one that can influence a lifetime. Match the tree to the site and both lives will benefit.

The question most frequently asked of tree care professionals is "What tree do you think I should plant?" Before this question can be answered, a number of questions need to be asked.

Asking and answering these questions and other questions prior to beginning the selection process will help you determine the "Right tree for the right place".

Why is the tree being planted?

Do you want the tree to provide shade, fruit, seasonal color or act as a windbreak or screen?

What is the size and location of the planting site?

Does the space lend itself to a large, medium, or small tree?

Are there wires or utilities in the vicinity?

Do you need to consider clearance for sidewalks, patios, or driveways?

What types of soil conditions exist? Is the soil deep, fertile and well drained or is it shallow, compacted and infertile?

What type of maintenance are you willing to provide?

Do you have time to water, fertilize and prune the newly planted tree until it is established?

Did You Know?

An acre of trees produces enough oxygen to keep 18 people alive for one year.

An average forest tree absorbs about 13 pounds of carbon dioxide each year—that's 2.6 tons absorbed by one acre of trees. This is enough to offset the carbon dioxide produced by driving 1 car 26,000 miles.

The average oak tree drops 52,690 leaves and 1845 acorns per year

About 99% of the water taken up by the tree roots evaporates from the leaves and stems through transpiration

It takes an entire forest over 500,000 trees to supply Americans with their Sunday newspapers

A mature oak tree can draw up to 50 or more gallons of water per day

For every 10,000 acorns from oak trees only one will become a tree

It takes over 40 gallons of maple sap to make just one gallon of maple syrup. Most syrup available in the grocery store contain less than 2% real maple syrup

There are approximately 20,000 species of trees around the world.

Job Safety

The tree service industry is ranked in the top ten for most dangerous jobs. Our crews realize that every day, and that every job can be hazardous. Every person on the job site is potentially at risk during a large tree operation.

Communication is a must between the climbers in the tree, the grounds men or anyone else on the job site. Either verbal communication or hand signals are used at the job sites.

All the crewmembers know that each cut made on a tree could do



harm to the tree, but more importantly each cut could be harmful to them or to one of the other crewmembers, or to the surrounding property. For personal safety, each crewmember is required to wear personal protection equipment (PPE) for the jobs they will be performing.

When our crews arrive on the job sites, first a visual inspection must be done of the tree that is to be either removed or pruned. The crew leader must decide the safest most efficient way to accomplish the job.

Our crews need to know the differences between the various species of trees. Some trees fall apart fast and some do not. If the job is for removal of a tree and that tree is dead or dying a thorough inspection of the tree must be done to determine in the tree is safe enough to climb, or if they will need a bucket truck, or other equipment to do the job in the safest most efficient manner.

Here is a partial list of some of the hazards our crews must look for on every job:

- Has the tree been previously topped?*
- Are there defects in the canopy of the tree?*
- Is the base of the tree visible?*
- Are there any overhead wires in the area?*
- What is underneath the tree?*
- Are there any visual signs of decay?*
- Does the tree look weak?*

Trees in poor condition can be easy to spot most of the time. There are occasions when a healthy tree has internal decay and is not noticeable. So every tree, every time, needs to be visually inspected.

Observation helps our crews to think ahead when approaching a hazardous tree; thinking ahead allows our crews to formulate a safe work plan. A safe work plan includes communication with the ground crew, the bucket truck operator, and all the people on the job site.

All of our crewmembers attend safety meetings, seminars, or attend safety programs on a monthly basis.

Our crews are at risk everyday out there on the job sites and they all know that each job can be hazardous.

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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Mites

Several types of mites can cause damage to foliage: The most common are Spider Mites. Some landscaped trees and shrubs that are often attacked are Arborvitae, Azalea, Cotoneaster, Crab Apple, Rose, Linden, Mountain Ash, Spruce, and Walnut trees.

DAMAGE: Mites damage plants by sucking cell contents from leaf tissue. The initial damage appears as a tipping (or peppering) of light dots on the leaves. As feeding continues, the leaves turn yellow or bronze in color and drop off.



ERIOPHYID MITES: Tiny Eriophyid Mites produce galls, blisters, rusts or a fuzzy growth on leaf surfaces of several hosts plants including Elm, Maple and Pear trees. The galls may be found between veins or along the leaf edge causing the leaf edges to roll.

CONTROL: Mites have some natural enemies that usually keep mite populations under control. If pesticide treatments are warranted, confine that applications to only those plants most seriously infested, this will help conserve the natural enemies.

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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