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August 2006

ALLEN'S Tree Service LLC

Branchin' Out

Avoiding Construction Damage

As cities and suburbs expand, wooded lands are being developed into commercial and residential sites. Homes are constructed in the midst of trees to take advantage of the aesthetic and environmental value of the wooded lots. 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. Further, unless the damage is extreme, the tree may not die immediately, but could decline over several years. With this delay in symptom development, you may not associate the loss of the tree with the construction.

It is possible to preserve trees on building sites if the right measures are taken. The most important step is to hire a professional arborist during the planning stage. A certified arborist can help you decide which trees can be saved, and can work with the builder to protect the trees throughout each construction phase.

Trees can be damaged in many different ways and the extent of the damage may be minimal or it could be fatal to the tree.

- *Construction equipment can injure the above ground portion of a tree by breaking branches, tearing the bark and wounding the trunk. These injuries 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 trees in the area. The amount of damage a tree can suffer from root loss depends upon how close to the tree the cut is made. Another problem that may result from root loss is that the potential for the tree to fall is increased.*
- *The heavy equipment used in construction compacts the soil, and can dramatically reduce the amount of pore space. This not only inhibits root growth and penetration, but also decreases oxygen in the soil that is essential to the growth and function of the roots.*
- *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 trees 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 arborist 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 the placement or design of your house can make a great difference in whether a critical tree will survive. It is important to work together. You may share clear objectives with your arborist and your builder. Most construction damage to trees is irreversible. Planning ahead is the best prevention for avoiding tree damage during construction.

Give us a call to set up an evaluation of your trees before you start construction projects that are near your valuable trees.

IN THIS ISSUE:

News from the Top

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

We are very proud of our tree crews and the work they do, and we'd like to show them some appreciation this month.

Being a climber is very difficult. It takes great skill, agility, and knowledge. Our climbers do not use gaffs/tree spikes when climbing live trees. If their job consists of thinning, or deadwooding large trees they use ropes, throwing balls, and saddles to maneuver around in the tree canopy. Not only do they have to know how to get up in the tree, but also make the proper cuts on the tree while hanging from a rope and saddle.

Our groundsmen work very hard as well. As the climbers are in the trees, they are keeping the ground cleaned up. Their job consists of just more than dragging brush. They help the climbers rope down the larger pieces of wood and the trunks from the trees that are being removed. The climbers and the groundsmen work together as a team.

Our climbers and our groundsmen, are constantly learning and improving the skills they have acquired. We provide safety training to help them gain more knowledge so they are able to do their jobs more efficiently and safely.

Our crews work hard for us every day out on the job sites. So this month we would like to say "Thank You" for a "Job Well Done" to all of our tree crews.

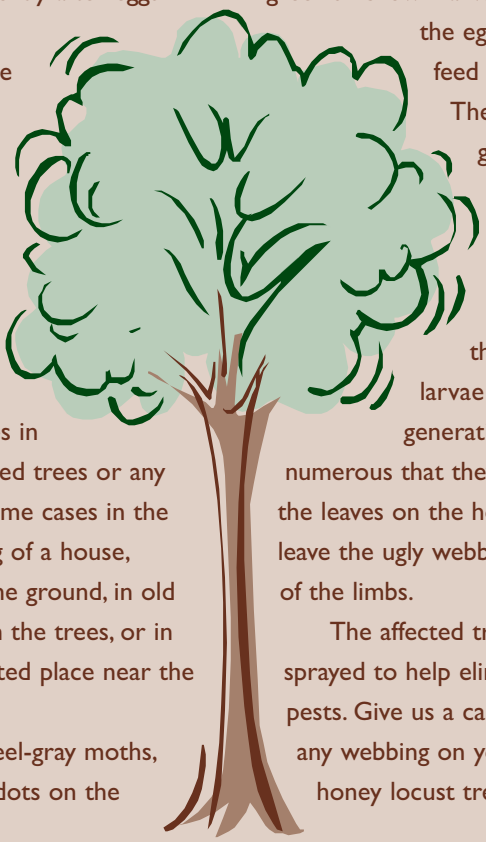
WEBWORMS!

The Mimosa webworm attacks the leaves of both Mimosa and Honey Locust trees. This pest produces two generations a year in Missouri. These generations overlap; larvae are usually present from June until September.

Control-insecticide sprays are most effective shortly after eggs hatch. The eggs hatch in early June to early August.

Mimosa webworms pass the winter as pupae within tough, white silken cocoons. The cocoons may be in crevices in the bark of infested trees or any tree nearby. In some cases in the weather boarding of a house, under trash on the ground, in old larval webbing on the trees, or in any other protected place near the host plant.

The small steel-gray moths, with small black dots on the forewings, emerge in late May or early June. The moths live for several weeks and lay their eggs on the leaves of the host plant. These eggs are oval, white and very small. Just before hatching, they change in color from white to rose. The small, dark greenish brown larvae hatch from the eggs and start to feed on the leaflets.



The second-generation of moths emerge in late July or mid August and deposit their eggs. The larvae from this generation often are so numerous that they skeletonize all the leaves on the host trees and leave the ugly webbing over most of the limbs.

The affected trees can be sprayed to help eliminate the pests. Give us a call if you notice any webbing on your mimosa or honey locust trees.

Bark Shedding

Trees naturally shed bark as they grow. The amount of bark shed varies significantly from one year to the next and is usually not noticeable. But some trees, such as Sycamore, London Planetree and Silver Maple shed bark in large patches or strips. During a year with heavy shedding homeowners may become concerned that the tree is sick or dying. This usually is not the case. Sycamore and London Planetree normally show a bright green color on the branches when the bark first falls off but soon returns to normal. Maples reveal an orange color after shedding, but it too, returns to normal. There is nothing wrong with the tree as long as the shedding bark simply reveals underlying bark rather than bare wood. If you do suspect that there is a problem, give us a call and one of our certified arborist can do an evaluation on your tree.

6 Ways To Kill Your Trees

Urban trees live only a fraction of their natural lifespan. A tree that would live 80 years in the forest is expected to live an average of 20 years in the suburbs, and only seven in an urban setting. The most common cause of tree death is abuse and neglect from its number one pest, Homo Sapiens.

1. **Don't Forget To Water**
   Water deeply: a long slow trickle from the hose is good, especially during the first two years and during droughts.

2. **Do Not Trench, Cover up, or Compact the Soil in the Root Zone**
   Trees roots are shallower and broader than generally believed. Tree roots need air and water and empty spaces in the soil.

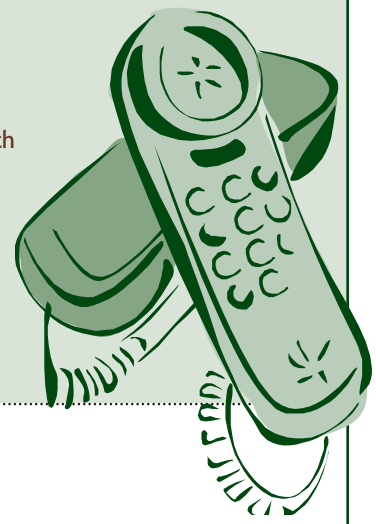
3. **Do Not Leave Tip Stakes to Girdle the Tree**
   With staking, less is better. Remove ties as soon as the tree can stand on its own, one year for most trees.

4. **Do Not Plant A Big Tree in a Small Space**
   Find out how tall and wide your tree species gets and give it that much room. Never plant tall trees under wires.

5. **Do Not Top Your Tree or Make Repeated Heading Cuts**
   Besides killing the tree, topping or cutting branch tips doesn't even work to keep it small. Ironically, it has the opposite effect: it causes rapid and unruly regrowth, which is not only ugly, but significantly weaker than the original limbs.

6. **Do Not Weed-Eat the Bark or Bash the Trunk**
   The most living and vulnerable part of the tree is just under the bark. Trees die in slow motion, from a series of blows over time. With a little knowledge we can create a kinder, gentler world for our friends: the trees.

If you have any other questions or concerns about your trees: planting, selection, or pruning call our office to set up an evaluation with one of our certified arborists.



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
- ☐ Deep Root Fertilization
- ☐ Insect/Disease Control
- ☐ Horticulture Oil Spray
- ☐ Mulch
- ☐ Dead Wooding
- ☐ Stump Grinding
- ☐ Land/Lot Clearing
- ☐ Growth Regulators
- ☐ Sweetgum Ball Control (Nuisance Fruit Eliminator)

Additional Questions/Information: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name _____

Street Address _____

_____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

ALLEN'S Tree Service INC

Allen's Tree Service
2755 W. Pearce Blvd.
Wentzville, MO 63385-3218

(636) 332-5535

www.allenstreeservice.com

Fun Facts

- *Trees keep our air supply fresh by absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen*
- *In one year, an acre of trees can absorb as much carbon as is produced by a car driven up to 8700 miles*
- *Trees provide shade and shelter, reducing yearly heating and cooling costs by 2.1 billion dollars*
- *Trees lower air temperature by evaporating water in their leaves*
- *The average tree in a metropolitan area survives only about 7 years*
- *A tree does not reach its most productive stage of carbon storage for about 10 years*
- *Trees cut down noise pollution by acting as sound barriers*
- *Tree roots stabilize the soil and prevent erosion*
- *Trees improve water quality by slowing and filtering rain water as well as protecting aquifers and watersheds*
- *Trees provide protection from downward fall of rain, sleet, and hail as well as reduce storm run off and the possibility of flooding*
- *Trees provide shelter for wildlife*
- *Trees located along streets act as a glare and reflection control*
- *The death of one 70-year-old tree would return over three tons of carbon to the atmosphere*

Trees Save Energy

With the price of gasoline hovering over $2.00 a gallon, here are some timely facts about how trees around homes and buildings reduce energy use and costs.

In the summer, a home shaded by as few as three trees can cut its energy bills in half.

In winter, homes sheltered from wind have winter heat savings of as much as 10.3 thousand BTUs or approximately $52 per home annually.

Urban trees not only reduce energy consumption, they reduce the effects of pollution as well. Trees store tons of carbon – between 400 and 500 million metric tons annually – and reduce smog and air pollution.

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2755 W. Pearce Blvd.
Wentzville, MO 63385-3218

(636) 332-5535

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www.allenstreeservice.com