



Branchin' Out

What to Look For When Buying A High Quality Tree

A high quality tree has sound roots to support healthy growth, no wounds in the trunk, a strong form with well-spaced and firm attached branches. A low quality tree has crushed or circling roots in a small root ball or container, wounded trunk from mechanical impacts or incorrect pruning, a weak form in which multiple stems squeeze against each other or branches squeeze against the trunk. When buying a tree, inspect it carefully to make certain it does not have problems with roots, injuries, or form. Use the acronym RIF: it will help you remember roots, injuries, and form. Trees are available with three types of roots. Lets look at the three types, and potential problems to be aware of.

Bare Root

Bare roots have no soil and are usually small trees. Bare roots should not be crushed or torn.

The ends of the roots should be clean cut. If a few roots are crushed, re-cut them to remove the injured portions. Use sharp tools, make straight cuts, and do not paint the ends. The cuts should be made immediately before planting and watering.

Root-Balled

Root balled trees have the roots in soil held in place by burlap or some other fabric; the root ball may be in a wire basket. You should be able to see the trunk flare, which is the spreading of trunk at the base that connects with the roots. Root balls should be flat on top with roots in soil in round bags. Often many major woody roots are cut or torn during the bagging process. The diameter of the root ball should be at least 10 to 12 times the diameter of the trunk as measured 6 inches above the trunk flare. After placing the root ball in the planting site, cut the cords and carefully pull away the burlap or other fabric, being careful not to break the soil around the roots. Cut the wire on wire baskets. Place the basket into the planting site. Cut away at least the top two wires without disturbing the root ball. If only a few roots are injured, cut away only the

injured portions. Use a sharp tool. If many roots are injured, the tree may have serious growth problems.

Container-Grown

Container grown trees have roots and soil in a container. Roots should not twist or circle in the container. Remove the root ball from the container. Inspect the exposed larger roots carefully to see whether they are twisting or turning in circles. Circling roots often girdle and kill other roots. If only a few roots are circling, cut them away with a sharp tool. The trunk flare should be obvious. Be on alert for trees planted too deeply in containers or trees "buried" in fabric bags.

Injuries

Beware of injuries beneath trunk wraps. If the tree is wrapped, remove the wrap and inspect the trunk for wounds, incorrect pruning cuts, and insect injuries. Wrap can be used to protect the trunk during transit but should be removed after planting. Incorrect pruning cuts are major problems. Cuts that remove or injure the swollen collar at the base of branches can start many serious problems, such as cankers, decay, and cracks. Incorrect cuts that

leave branch and leader stubs also start disease and defect problems. Do not leave stubs. A correct pruning cut removes the branch just outside the collar. A ring or "doughnut" of sound tissues then grows around the cut. Do not make cuts flush to the trunk. The closing tissues may form only to the sides of the flush cuts. Trunk tissues above and below flush cut branches often die. When the heat of the sun or the cold of frost occurs, cracks or long, dead streaks may develop above and below the dead spots.

If you'd like help planting your high quality tree, call us today at 636-332-5535.

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News from the Top

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



It has been a crazy time at Allen's Tree Service since we last published a newsletter! We have decided that we want to be more involved with the community and answer any questions homeowners may have about tree and lawn care. We knew we needed someone who would be a positive reflection for Allen's Tree Service. We have

hired a Public Relations Director, Natasha Weidig, to ensure that Allen's Tree Service has a face in the community. Natasha has two bachelor degrees from Lindenwood University and 3 years of sales experience. We are very excited to have her join our team!

We now are active members with many of the local chambers of commerce including St. Charles, St. Peters, O'Fallon, Lake St. Louis, and Wentzville. We are deeply committed to guaranteeing our customers that we are dedicated to their satisfaction. As a result, we have become a member of the Better Business Bureau.



We are very excited about an important new piece of equipment we just purchased from Europe. ATS is the first tree service in this area to have a Spider Lift – it really is similar to a spider! This amazing tool enables us to get to almost all trees and without hurting the homeowner's lawn. If you are interested in viewing our new Spider Lift, please call 636-332-5535!

We created our first annual Arbor Day celebration this year. We worked with Family Support Services in O'Fallon, MO to implement the celebration. The celebration was enjoyed by many employees at Allen's Tree Service, church members, and a couple

of the children from Family Support Services that volunteered to spread mulch around the grounds and of course we planted a tree! It was a great time and we look forward to continuing the new tradition! Allen's Tree Service now has a full lawn and landscaping division, headed by Mike McIntyre, to assist you with all of your outdoor projects! Mike has been in the lawn and landscaping business for 15 years and we are thrilled to have him on our team. Please call the office at 636-332-5535 if you would like to discuss any lawn and landscaping topics.

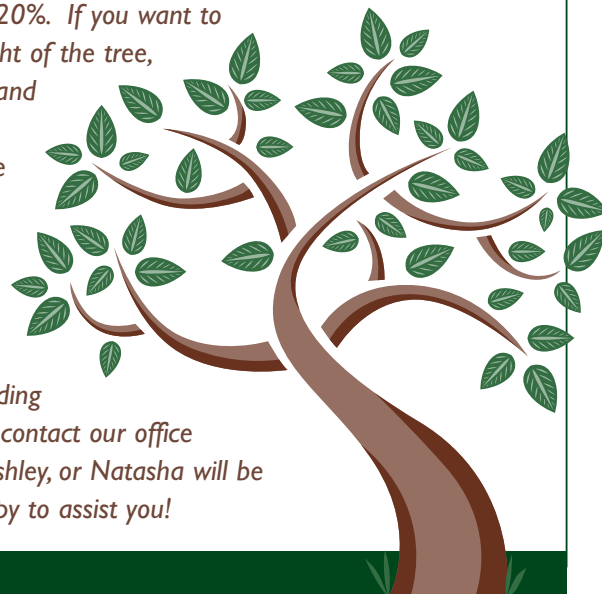
I would also like to thank all of the office staff and tree crews who worked long vigorous hours during the ice storms. Allen's Tree Service hired new employees to keep up with the large amount of work. I would like to personally thank two well-trained and educated climbers, James Emerson and Abraham Gonzalez, who have been more than patient while training former grounds men who are now climbers in training. Allen's Tree Service employees have attended many seminars and training classes this year including the Saint Louis Arborist meetings, Vermeer's Rigging seminar, Tree Identification classes hosted by Dan Billman, and CTSP workshops with continuous weekly tailgate safety meetings.

Why Topping is Bad

We receive numerous calls daily from customers who want their trees topped because they want to reduce the height of the tree. So what's the issue? Topping is actually one of the worse things you can do to a tree and causes the tree to be stressed. It often removes 50-100% of the leaf bearing crown of a tree. The leaves are the "food factory" of a tree so this temporarily "starves" a tree. This causes the tree to grow faster and taller than previously because it needs to put out new leaves as soon as possible so it doesn't starve. A tree that has been topped is also more vulnerable to insect and disease infestations. Topping also can cause decay, create hazards, and makes trees ugly! Properly pruned trees live longer and are healthier, do not cause hazards, and can increase your home's value by up to 20%. If you want to reduce the height of the tree,

it is more safe and less expensive to have the tree removed and then to replace it with a low growing tree.

If you have any questions regarding topping, please contact our office where Diann, Ashley, or Natasha will be more than happy to assist you!



Fertilizing

Are your trees light green to yellow green in color? Do your trees have a lot of dead wood, sparse foliage or new growth that is shorter than it should be? If they do your trees might need to be fertilized because they may be lacking nutrients. If your trees have dark green leaves and excessive growth of new shoots you can delay fertilizing for another year. When necessary, Deep Root Fertilizing allows the fertilizer to be delivered right into the tree's root system. Allen's Tree Service uses a slow-release fertilizer that does not burn the roots. This is distributed evenly under the trees drip line, using a small rod about one foot deep holes about two feet apart. Deciduous trees and shrubs have a special need for nitrogen. They should be fertilized in either the early spring or the late fall. This will keep the height of their growing season in mid-summer and will protect the plants from sustaining damage to new growth as the winter approaches

The Advantages of Lawn Care

As our lifestyles become busier with demands from families, jobs, and hobbies, we find ourselves with less and less time to do work in our lawns, much less maintain our lawns with fertilizer, weed and insect control, and mowing and trimming. With this in mind, we are the ones to call for all of your lawn and landscaping needs. We can relieve much of the burden, because we are a full service lawn and landscape company. We offer you the opportunity to take advantage of a number of services depending on your needs including mowing and trimming, fertilizing and weed control, and mulching and shrub maintenance. Our tree division can handle all the pruning, deadwooding, removals, fertilizing, and insect/disease control for the trees in your landscape. We have the knowledge, the proper equipment and the experienced and educated personnel to do the job completely and efficiently. Be the envy of your neighborhood with a lawn that is maintenance free for you.

Surviving the Storm

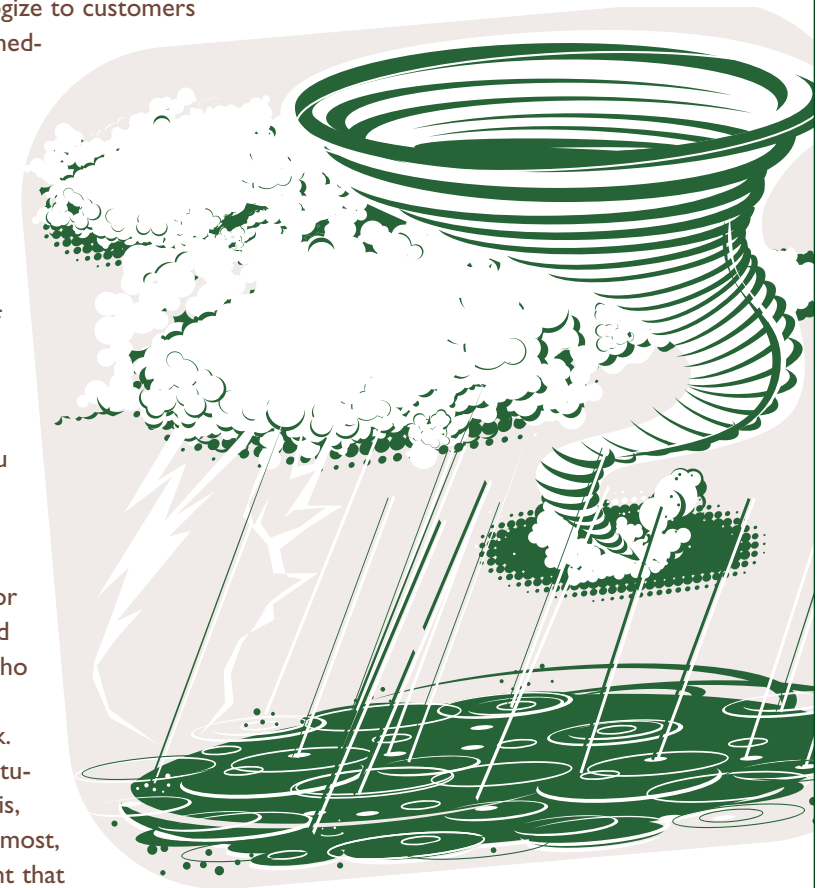
Have you ever wondered what you would do if a major storm hit our area?

Many people never really considered what could happen during ice storms until this year. We began receiving calls the evening of the first storm. There was quite a bit of emergencies that we had to tend to such as fallen trees on homes, cars, and in streets. We wanted to ensure that all the emergencies were taken care of so almost all of our employees worked overtime for several weeks.

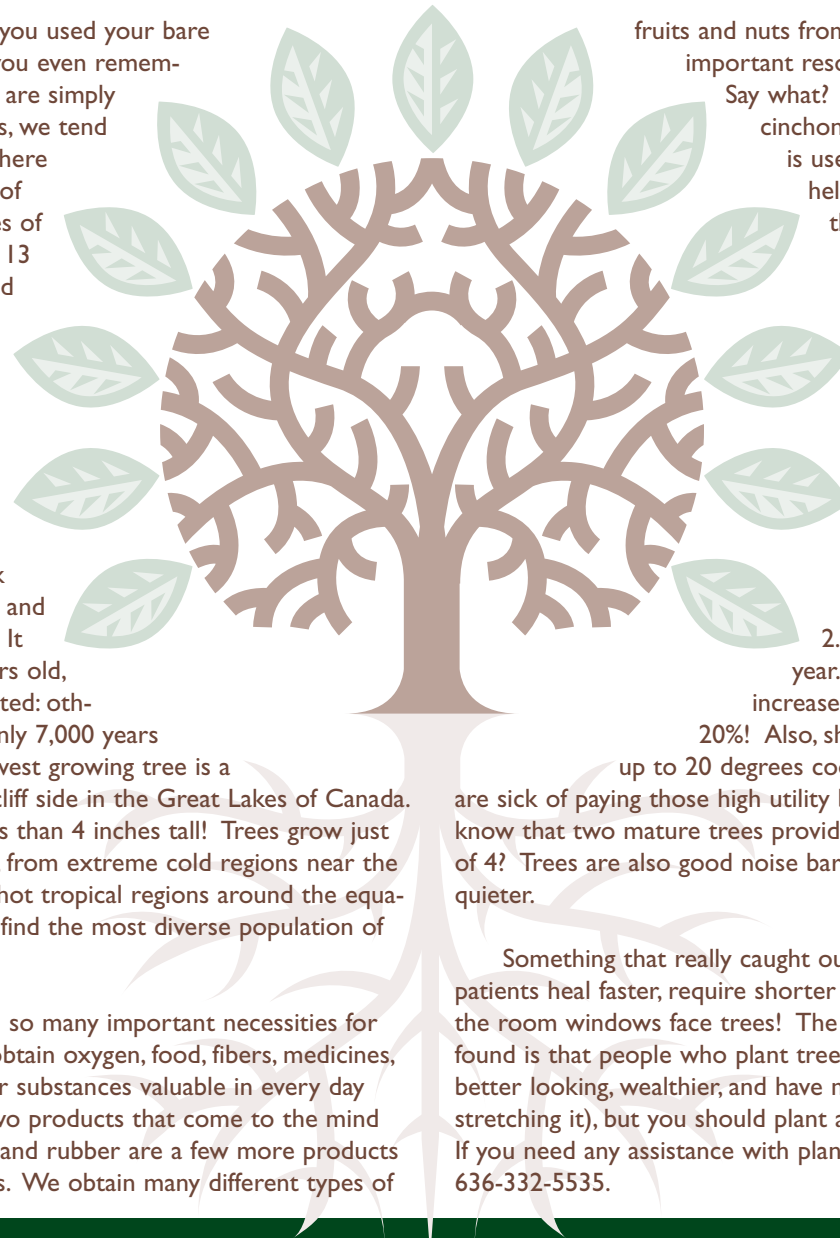
We do apologize to customers that were scheduled to have their tree work done. We had to make sure the storm situation was taken care of and it took us longer than expected. Thank you for being so understanding! We are so thankful for our dedicated employees who worked from dawn to dusk.

To prevent situations like this, first and foremost, it is important that you have a professional

tree care company such as Allen's Tree Service assess your property. Hanging limbs and hazardous trees are unpredictable and can fall at any time. A tree is hazardous for several different reasons: a lot of dead branches; rotting trunks or branches; splits in the tree; fallen branches; root damage; leaning of the tree; if the tree has been topped. After storms, we receive many calls asking if customers' trees are going to survive. It's impossible to say without seeing the tree, but generally there is a high chance of survival if less than 50% of the tree is damaged. Corrective pruning will increase the tree's chance of survival. Trees with 50-75% damage have a fairly good chance of surviving as long as they are monitored and correctively pruned. If 75% of the tree is damaged then there is a low chance of survival and the tree should be removed. If you have any questions as to whether your tree will survive or not, please call our office and schedule an appointment with our arborist. Be careful of unprofessional companies soliciting business door to door. Most of these companies do not carry proper insurance or workman's comp, which means the homeowner, may be held liable should an accident occur. Here at Allen's Tree Service, we have both general liability insurance and workman's comp and are more than happy to offer our certificate of insurance. If you have any questions or comments, please call us at 636-332-5535.



The Truth Behind Trees



How long has it been since you used your bare hand to touch a tree? Do you even remember what it feels like? Trees are simply amazing and like many things, we tend to take them for granted. There are so many different types of trees...try over 20,000 types of trees! Some will only grow 13 feet while the Redwoods and the Eucalyptus may reach heights of over 360 feet! Some trees will live only a few years while others may live thousands of years. The oldest tree known is a Redwood named Eternal God and is in the Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park in California. It is 238 ft tall and has a diameter of 19.6 feet. It is believed to be 12,000 years old, but this figure is being disputed: others believe the tree to be only 7,000 years old! That is crazy! The slowest growing tree is a White Cedar located on a cliff side in the Great Lakes of Canada. It is 155 years old and is less than 4 inches tall! Trees grow just about everywhere on Earth, from extreme cold regions near the Arctic and the Antarctic to hot tropical regions around the equator and in deserts. You will find the most diverse population of trees in rain forests.

Trees have provided us with so many important necessities for us to live how we do. We obtain oxygen, food, fibers, medicines, fuel sources, and many other substances valuable in every day life. Wood and paper are two products that come to the mind first. Alcohol, plastics, cork, and rubber are a few more products that are obtained from trees. We obtain many different types of

fruits and nuts from trees. Medicine is also an important resource that is found in trees.

Say what? Yes, it is true! The bark of the cinchona tree contains quinine, which is used to treat malaria. Trees also help the environment by keeping the soil from eroding into rivers, lakes, and even oceans!

What are some things that most people do not know about trees? Well there are so many facts that a lot of people do not realize. They include that the average tree in a metropolitan area survives only about 8 years. One acre of trees removes up to 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide per year. Mature landscape trees can increase your home's value by up to 20%! Also, shade trees can make buildings up to 20 degrees cooler in the summer so if you

are sick of paying those high utility bills, get a shade tree! Did you know that two mature trees provide enough oxygen for a family of 4? Trees are also good noise barriers, making the neighborhood quieter.

Something that really caught our attention was that hospital patients heal faster, require shorter stays and fewer painkillers if the room windows face trees! The most interesting fact that we found is that people who plant trees actually become healthier, better looking, wealthier, and have more friends (ok maybe we are stretching it), but you should plant a tree to find out for sure! If you need any assistance with planting a tree, please call us at 636-332-5535.

SLIME FLUX MEDICAL ALERT

Slime Flux is a disease caused by bacteria. This disease results in persistent, bad-smelling odors, bleeding cankers on the stem or at the base of the trunk of many species of hardwood trees. Oaks are the most seriously affected species. Incidence is low, but severe quality loss occurs to the infected tree. The prime wounding agents are insect borers, mechanical injuries, and natural cracks and splits which are rarely observed. Clear sap flowing from the wound becomes colonized with bacteria, darkens, and develops an unpleasant odor. The specific bacteria causing the dark color and odor are rarely identified. Patches of wet bark having a sour smell are generally the first symptom of this disease. In addition, insects are attracted to the wet area. Often the bark in the area of the slime flux separates from the tree bole and gives a hollow sound when tapped.

The wounding of hardwoods causes sap to flow from the injured area. Bacteria colonize the sap causing the typical odor. The bacteria-laden fluid is toxic to the bark and enlarges the wound with time. In the forest, practices that minimize wounding will reduce the spread of this disease. For urban trees, maintaining vigorous, healthy growing conditions (through fertilization, watering, and mulching) and avoiding wounds will reduce the probability that trees will be affected by this disease. Removing bark from the affected area will reduce damage to an individual tree.



Yearly Calendar

TREE CARE

January

- Prune American Elm trees

February

- Prune Oak Trees
- Injections for Prevention of Dutch Elm Disease

March

- Dormant Oil Spraying starts
- Fire Blight Treatment
- Spring Cambistat Treatment

April

- Dormant Oil Spray continues
- Sweetgum Ball Florel Spraying

May

- Deep Root Fertilization
- Sulfur coated, high nitrogen fertilizer applied to promote stem & leaf growth

June

- Bagworms on evergreens, and in the landscape

July

- Japanese beetles on fruit trees, some flowers, little leaf linden trees, river birches, etc

August

- Webworms on fruit or other trees

September

- Deep Root Fertilization of trees and shrubs
- Spray tulip trees for aphids/scale
- Fire Blight treatments

October

- Deep Root Fertilizing
- Treatments for Iron Chlorosis on Oak Trees

November

- Prune Oak Trees

December

- Prune Oak Trees

LAWN CARE

March

- Pre-emergent for crabgrass & spring annual weeds
- Post-emergent for weeds, and shrub & flower beds

April

- Second pre-emergent to control foxtails & other summer annual weeds
- Well balanced Fertilizer for quick green-up
- Post-Emergent for weeds in shrub beds

June

- A balanced, slow release fertilizer to continue healthy growth
- Spot treatment for control of broadleaf and grassy weeds

September

- Especially formulated fertilizer to strengthen and deepen root system
- Pre-emergent to control winter weeds and grasses

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 either call, e-mail, or mail this to the address below ...we look forward to hearing from you.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Complete Tree Health Care

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree/limb removal | <input type="checkbox"/> Diagnosis/Evaluations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood/Brush Removal | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep Root Fertilization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stump Grinding | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect/Disease Control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Truck Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Horticultural Oil Spray |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selective Pruning | <input type="checkbox"/> Nuisance Fruit Eliminator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deadwooding | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth Regulators |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crown Thinning | <input type="checkbox"/> Injections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crown Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Vertical Mulching |

Complete Landscape Maintenance

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grass Cutting | <input type="checkbox"/> Weed/Crab Grass Control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Edging | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trimming | <input type="checkbox"/> Leaf Removal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilization | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Bed Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aeration | <input type="checkbox"/> Mulching of Landscaped Areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overseeding | |

24-Hour Emergency Storm Service

Land / Lot Clearing

Organic and Colored Mulches (sold in bulk or by the yard)

Commercial Snow & Ice Removal

Allen's Tree Service

2755 W. Pearce Blvd.

Wentzville, MO 63385-3218

(636) 332-5535

www.allenstreeservice.com

Additional Questions/Information:



Care of Thanksgiving & Christmas Cacti

Thanksgiving cactus (Schlumbergera truncata) and Christmas cactus (Schlumbergera bridgesii) are epiphytes native to the jungles of South America.

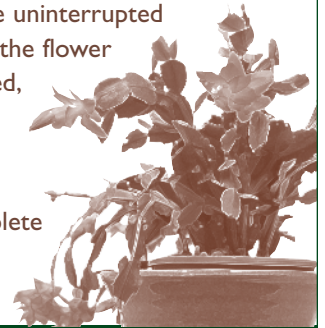
Epiphytic plants grow on other plants and use them for support but not for nutrients.

Though these cacti are different species, they will hybridize and produce varying stem shapes.

Thanksgiving cactus has hook-like appendages on each segment and Christmas cactus normally has smooth stem segments.

Both of these cacti prefer common household temperatures bright indirect light, too much sun can result in the leaves turning yellow. The soil should be kept constantly moist but not waterlogged being fertilized lightly every other week. Blooming will normally cease in late winter to early spring, but continue to keep them moist and fertilized until fall. During the fall, stop fertilizing, and give the plants only enough water so the stems do not shrivel in order to encourage flower bud formation. Although these plants seem to flower best if kept a little pot bound, flowers will diminish if they are too crowded, so if you haven't repotted in several years, or if you notice a decrease in flowering from the previous year, move plant to a larger pot in the spring. If possible, move the plants outside for the summer. Choose a shady spot because these plants will not tolerate

full sun. Leave the plants outside until frost threatens. Normally, the plants will have received enough cool nights in the 50-55 degree range that flower buds will have formed. However, if they haven't subjecting the plants to nights greater than 12 hours long and temperatures between 59 and 69 degrees can also generate flowers. Twenty-five consecutive long nights is enough for flower initiation. Place the plants in an unused room or cover them with a dark cloth or cardboard box to insure that they receive uninterrupted darkness. After the flower buds have formed, it takes an additional 9-10 weeks for flowers to complete development and bloom.



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

(636) 332-5535

"Branching Out" is published periodically 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 "Branching Out" please call Allen's Tree Service Inc. at 636-946-2213 or 636-332-5535 or visit us online:

www.allenstreeservice.com

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