



ALL SEASONS TREE SERVICE

THE VALUE OF TREES

Imagine a world without trees. It's virtually impossible, because without trees we can't survive. Trees are essential to life and yet, they are taken for granted. Unfortunately, one million acres of forest are lost to city growth each year. Trees offer many benefits that are obscure to many, which include:

- **Air Filtration-** filters out particulate matter and absorbs harmful gases
- **Purifies Water-** improves water quality by slowing and filtering rain water
- **Cost Reduction-** provides shade and shelter, reducing yearly heating and cooling costs by 2.1 billion dollars
- **Climate Control-** obtained by moderating the effects of sun, wind, and rain
- **Increase Property Value-** well-cared landscape properties are 5-20% more valuable than non-landscaped estates
- **Protection-** from downward fall of rain, sleet, and hail, as well as reducing storm run-off, and the possibility of flooding
- **Glare and Reflection Control**
- **Wind Break, Deflection, and Filtration**
- **Sound Barrier**

Since trees are a growing asset to any property, maintenance of the trees is crucial for long-term health, safety, and aesthetic value," says Kevin Shrader owner of All Seasons Trees Service of Westminster, and an ISA Certified Arborist.

Many people do not realize that trees have a dollar value of their own. However, the best way to prepare for an unfortunate, unexpected loss is to take precautionary measures. Even though trees provide many values, hazardous trees can cause significant damage to people's homes if the conditions exist. Shrader advises taking the following simple preventive steps that can improve the value of your trees, and might prevent financial loss in the future.

- Plan your landscape for both beauty and functional value.
- Protect and preserve to maintain worth.
- Take pictures of trees and other landscape plants while they are healthy.
- Check your insurance.
- Keep accurate records of your landscape and real estate appraisals.
- Consult an ISA Certified Arborist at every stage in the life of your landscape to prevent unnecessary financial loss when casualty strikes.

Trees are alive, like us, and require an investment and continuous maintenance. Take the above preventative measures to protect your trees.

Get advice from an arborist- An arborist is a professional in the care of trees. A qualified arborist can give you sound advice and can provide the services your trees may need. Good arborists will perform only accepted practices. When choosing an arborist, look for International Society of Arboriculture Certification, membership in professional associations, and ask for proof of insurance. Be wary of individuals who go door-to-door offering bargains for doing tree work. Kevin Shrader is an ISA Certified Arborist with 30 years experience. For information on the ISA visit www.isa-arbor.com.

TOP MYTHS OF TREE CARE

Should you prune your trees in the Spring? How deep must fertilizer be applied to reach the roots of your trees? Which species of trees should be topped to keep them from falling on your house? Most homeowners treasure the trees on their property but know little about how to care for them. Much of what you may have heard about tree care is actually incorrect, based on myths and misconceptions. Here are the top myths of tree care.

MYTH #1: When a tree is planted it should be securely staked to ensure the development of a stable root system and a strong trunk. Although it is sometimes necessary to stake trees to keep them upright and allow establishment, there are some adverse effects of staking. Compared to staked trees, unstaked trees tend to develop a more extensive root system and better trunk taper. Allowing a small amount of movement can help root and trunk development. Of course, the worst effect of staking is the possibility of trunk damage from the staking wires or ties. Staking materials usually should be removed after one year to avoid "girdling" the tree.

MYTH #2: Newly planted trees should have their trunks wrapped with tree wrap to prevent sunscald and insect entry. Studies using most common tree wraps have shown that they do not prevent extreme fluctuations in temperature on the bark. In some cases, the temperature extremes are worse. Also, tree wraps have proven quite ineffective in preventing insect entry. In fact, some insects like to burrow under it.

MYTH #3: Trees should be pruned back heavily when they are planted to compensate for the loss of roots. Tree establishment is best with unpruned trees. Although pruning the top can reduce the amount of water that evaporates from the leaves, the tree needs a full crown to produce the much-needed food and the plant hormones that induce root growth. The tree will develop a stronger, more extensive root system if it has a fuller crown. Limit pruning at the time of planting to structural training and the removal of damaged branches.

MYTH #4: When removing a branch from a tree, the final cut should be flush with the stem to optimize healing. First of all, trees don't "heal" in the sense that wounds on people heal. Our bodies regenerate tissues in much the same form of the tissues that were removed (to a limited extent). Trees compartmentalize wounds, generating wound wood over the wounded area. Flush cutting removes the "branch col-

lar," creating a larger wound than if the branch were removed outside the collar. Also, it is likely that some of the parent branch tissue will be removed. The spread of decay inside the tree is greater with flush cuts.

MYTH #5: Pruning wounds greater than three inches in diameter should be painted with a wound dressing. Research has shown that the common wound dressings do not inhibit decay, do not prevent insect entry, and do not bring about faster wound closure. In fact, many of the commonly used dressings slow wound closure.

MYTH #6: Certain fast-growing, weak-wooded trees such as silver maple and Siberian elm should be "topped" to make them less hazardous in the landscape. While topping these trees may reduce the potential hazard at first, they will likely be more dangerous in the future. Topping stimulates growth of twigs below the cuts. Growth of many, vigorous shoots leads to branches with weak attachments. Also decay spreads inside the stubs and branches that were topped. Within 2-5 years after topping, the tree will have regained its height, but will be more hazardous than before the topping. Besides, topping makes trees ugly. Alternatives to topping include thinning, cabling, or removal and replacement with a more suitable species.

MYTH #7: If certain species of trees are pruned early in the spring, they will "bleed," stressing the tree and causing health problems. True, some trees such as maples and birches will "bleed" or lose sap from pruning cuts made early in the spring. This bleeding does not hurt the tree, and the loss of sap is inconsequential. With a few exceptions, most routine pruning can be done anytime of year. The worst time is just as the tree has leafed out in the spring. The best time is when the tree is dormant. To maximize flowering for the following year, prune just after bloom this year.

MYTH #8: The root system of a tree is a mirror image of the top. Many people envision a large, branching taproot growing deep into the soil. Actually, taproots are very uncommon in mature trees. If taproots do develop, they usually will be forced into horizontal growth when they encounter hard subsoils beneath the surface. The entire root systems of most trees can be found within three feet of soil. The spread of the root system however, can be very extensive, often extending 2-3 times the spread of the crown.