
Tri County Tree Experts:

Benefits of Tree Pruning:

Pruning objectives for mature trees

As trees mature, pruning should be based on pruning purposes. Do not just indiscriminately remove branches. The pruning purpose determines how to prune, which in turn determines the type of pruning cuts used. Our tree care professionals and licensed tree care arborist are experts in these determinations.

Limitation on how much can be removed

Do not indiscriminately remove branches with live foliage as this can add stress to the tree. The amount of live wood and foliage that can be removed per season depends on the growth rate of the tree. As a rule-of-thumb for healthy trees, 10-15% of the live foliage may be removed per season. For actively growing medium age trees, without growth limitation factors, up to 20% of the foliage may be removed per season. For young actively growing trees (growth phase of life cycle) without growth limiting factors up to 25% of foliage may be removed per season.

More severe pruning slows root growth by shifting the root to shoot growth ratio. This adds significant stress to the tree. Heavy pruning also reduces carbohydrate reserves, making the tree less tolerant of insects, diseases, and drought stress. Do not remove live wood and foliage from trees showing stress.

Avoid topping a tree. Topping opens the tree to internal decay. Re-growth of water sprouts (adventitious shoots) is structurally unsound.

- **Health**

Our tree pruning services include the removal of diseased, broken, or dead branches on mature trees and young trees alike for tree protection. This prevents decay-producing fungi from penetrating and infecting other areas of your tree. The removal of live branches is occasionally necessary to allow increased exposure to sunlight and circulation of air within the canopy.

- **Structural**

Young tree pruning, also known as developmental tree pruning, is pruning performed for structural enhancement. This important procedure helps ensure that your new plantings have desirable branch architecture and structural integrity. Proper pruning of specimens when they are young reduces the potential of costly problems and the need for structural support as your landscape matures.

- **Appearance and Restoration**

Tree pruning for appearance and restoration is essential for maximizing the beauty of formal plantings and to assist with landscape maintenance. In particular, we advocate aesthetic tree care for mature trees when the characteristic form of your trees has deteriorated.

Techniques For Pruning Mature Trees

Purposes	How	Pruning Cut
Reduce risk of failure (Wind loading)	Structural Cleaning	Thinning cut Reduction cut
(Snow loading)	Thinning	Heading cut
(Structural pruning)	Raising	

Develop structure	Restoration
Improve aesthetics	
Provide clearance	
Improve view	
Reduce shade	
Influence flowering and fruiting	

Benefits of Tree Trimming:

Tree trimming is a key component to having a landscape you can enjoy for years to come. Tree trimming service will help you maximize the safety, structural integrity, shape and appearance of the trees and shrubs on your property. Trimming services by a professional tree care company help you maintain the stature, strength and seasonal characteristics of the trees and shrubs that enhance the natural beauty of your landscape and give it its unique character.

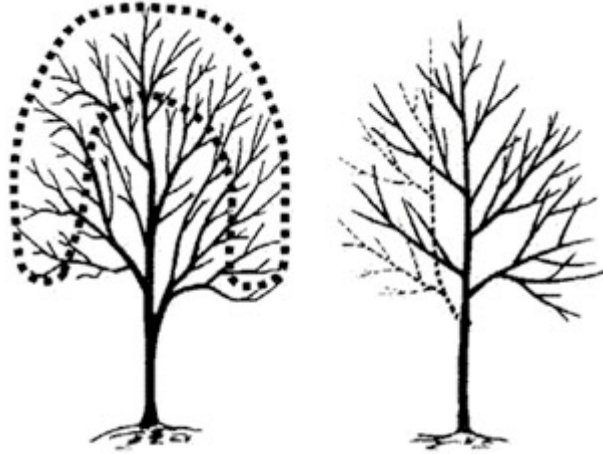
Tree Trimming Objectives

Tree trimming services are one of the most essential tree maintenance practices. Essentially, there are two objectives in trimming trees and shrubs. Maintenance trimming services protect or improve your trees' structure and overall health. Hazard reduction tree trimming identifies visible concerns and potential risks in your trees and addresses specific dangers in order to maximize tree safety. Arborists and other tree care professionals assess your tree trimming needs and take special care to enhance appearance, structural integrity and tree safety in your landscape.

- **Developmental Tree trimming**
Trimming trees for structural enhancement is achieved through young tree trimming, also known as developmental tree trimming service. This form of tree trimming is the most important procedure for your new plantings. It helps to ensure structural integrity and favorable branch architecture. Furthermore, proper tree trimming of specimens while they are young reduces the risk of costly problems, such as major structural support issues, as your landscape matures.
- **Tree Trimming for Health**
Tree trimming service for health removes broken, diseased, or dead branches in order to prevent decay-producing fungi from infiltrating and infecting other areas of your tree. Occasionally, it is necessary to remove live branches to increase exposure to sunlight and improve air circulation within the canopy.
- **Vista Tree Trimming**
Get unobstructed views of your beautified surroundings while still maintaining your privacy. Vista trimming increases your landscape value and emphasizes beauty by creating visual access to picturesque scenes and natural elements such as valleys, lakes and rivers.
- **Restorative Tree Trimming**
Restorative, or aesthetic tree trimming, is essential for enhancing the beauty of feature trees and formal plantings, especially when the characteristic form of your trees has deteriorated.

Thinning

Thinning is the selective removal of smaller branches (two inch diameter and smaller) in the leafy upper/outer canopy. Thinning cuts are primarily used. Since thinning is in the upper/outer canopy, it requires a trained arborist with a high level of skill in professional tree care techniques.



Benefits of thinning

- Thinning is the best way to minimize potential damage caused by snow loading, the primary factor leading to tree failures. Thinning can reduce limb weight in order to compensate for structural defects.
- Thinning increases light penetration into the tree interior. This can invigorate the tree and help retain the tree's natural shape. Thinning may reduce shade to under story plants below the tree. Shading by maturing trees often limits the vigor of lawn and flowers under the tree. However, increased light penetration into a lawn may invigorate the lawn adding stress to an old or declining tree due to root competition for water and nutrients.
- Thinning is a technique to partially open a view without removing or structurally impacting a tree. This is often referred to as "vista pruning".
- Thinning is not an effective technique to reduce wind sail and potential for breakage in strong winds. Reducing is the most effective way to deal with wind loading issues.

As a point of clarification, *thinning* is done on relatively small branches (less than two inch diameter) in the leafy upper/outer canopy. *Thinning* is not removing large lower branches which could create gaps in the crown and encourage water sprouts. Thinning is not removal of the small twiggy branches in the inner canopy. Thinning will not significantly lower a tree's height.

Avoid "lion-tailing" which is removal of the live small leafy twigs down in the tree's interior. These small interior branches are critical to the trunk's structural integrity and vigor. They also serve to dampen tree sway in wind. Lion-tailing shifts the wind loading to the outer canopy increasing the tree potential for wind damage.

Tree Removal:

Tree removal is a highly technical, yet delicate, task and requires highly qualified professionals. Tree removals address health, liability, and aesthetics and enable competing species to develop and mature. In certain instances, you may have to remove a tree that is alive if it is interfering with other trees, buildings, driveways, or utility wires. Tree removal is not a service that we like to emphasize, but it is a very necessary part of arboriculture and one that Tri-County executes professionally. Removals are performed to eliminate dead and dying trees and those that have become hazardous and cannot be mitigated by other accepted cultural practices. Removals are also done to eliminate competition so the

remaining plants have more light and space to develop. Trees are also removed to allow for new construction, building additions, and to provide clearances with those structures.

Tree removal is the most hazardous aspect of arboriculture. Often, tree workers must remove trees growing in confined spaces near homes, utility lines, and other sensitive areas. Tree removal requires considerable experience and training to successfully perform this task.

CABLING AND BRACING

Cables and brace rods are supplemental structural supports intended to reduce the risk of failure of weak branches and multiple stems. Cables generally consist of extra high strength steel and are attached to bolts installed in the upper crown of a tree. They are intended to limit the movement of the supported branches so they are less likely to fail during storms. Braces are thread rod that are installed through unions of weak branches and multiple stems to provide more rigid support from torsional (twisting) forces that can occur in violent weather. Tri-County Tree Experts developed cabling and bracing procedures in the early twentieth century that are the industry standards and still used today.

Supplemental structural support systems should only be installed based on a thorough inspection and evaluation of tree structure by our certified arborists. Materials and techniques must comply with published industry standards (American National Standards Institute A-300 Standards). If trees have lightning protection systems, the conductor must be attached to any support cables in the crown. Homeowners with supplemental structural support systems should contact Tri-County Tree Experts to inspect the system each year.

Lot Clearing

Can seem like a huge and intimidating task and a difficult obstacle between you and property development or estate improvement, but it doesn't have to.

Our well trained, hardworking and properly equipped technicians have everything that it takes to get your lot clearing taken care of in a quick, safe and hassle-free manner. We work efficiently and methodically to remove all of your problematic, dangerous or unwanted trees and to get your lot completely clear, clean and ready for whatever is ahead.

Your lot's trees can be a challenge or a threat in a lot of different ways. Fast growing, encroaching trees can become tangled in your home's phone lines or power lines, causing a potential electrical fire hazard. Overgrown trees can also crowd in on your windows or other portions of your home, scratching siding, roofing and more. Trees can also constitute simple physical obstacles, getting in the way of planned improvements like new sheds, room additions, driveways and more. In addition to the dangers and challenges your trees can present, they also lend to a generally unkempt appearance in your lawn by breaking up usable space and littering your yard with branches, twigs and leaves. It doesn't matter what your reasons are for needing quality lot clearing services, all that matters is that you need your trees gone and we can help.

You'll love our skilled, hardworking and knowledgeable professionals, and you'll see immediately that they're focused on delivering the kind of high quality services that you can really count on. When you choose us to take care of all of your lot clearing needs, you're choosing a contractor that cares about the quality and beauty of your property, and works hard to ensure your satisfaction every time. There's no reason to wait on improving your home's lawn.

Storm Damage:

Did you know...most trees that fall during a storm could have been identified as hazardous if they had been properly evaluated beforehand?

The best way to protect the value of your home and your arboricultural assets from storm damage is through proper year-round tree care. This will help prevent many avoidable situations, protect your investment and save you the cost and trouble of cleanup and repairs.

Although it's difficult to protect trees from extreme weather conditions, there are effective precautions you and your arborist can take to minimize the impact.

Seasonal Weather Affects on Trees

Extreme weather conditions can wreak havoc on your trees and shrubs. For example, the combination of hot, dry weather can lead to water loss – depriving a tree of necessary nutrients. Or, freezing, damp conditions, if abruptly following mild weather, can cause significant stress to even the hardiest of species. Although you can't prevent these conditions from occurring, there are precautions you can take to help safeguard your trees.

Firewood:

By far the most important characteristic of any firewood is its moisture content. Firewood with a moisture content higher than twenty percent will burn, but it will be hard to light and keep burning and will make a lot of smoke. Plus much of its energy content will be wasted right up the chimney. Firewood should be between 15 and 20 percent moisture to burn properly and to get that dry it must be split and stacked in the open for at least a full summer.

Lots of people have been misled by old timers who say that white ash (for example) can be burned green. Sure it will burn, but very badly because it has a natural moisture content of over 30 percent. While that is lower than most species, it is still much too wet for efficient burning. Some advice from old timers is helpful, but not in this case.

What is the best tree species for firewood? While there is always room for debate, we like to suggest that the best species in your area is the one that is most plentiful, easy to split and doesn't cover your hands and clothes with sticky sap.

Wood chips

Mulching with wood chips

When to mulch with wood chips

Mulch all new plantings at planting time. Existing trees may be mulched any time chips are available.

How to mulch with wood chips

Wood chip mulch is easily applied with regular garden tools. Simply put down 3-4 inches of chips, level off and tamp lightly, pulling chips away from trunk slightly. There is no need to use plastic sheets with rocks. Rocks hold heat and can be detrimental to plant health.

Planting a new tree or shrub

For best results, strip away all sod to a depth of 2-3 inches and to the diameter you plan on covering with wood chips. This diameter for the chips should be at least 2-3 feet larger than the hole diameter you plan on digging to plant your new tree or shrub. The wider the hole and the larger the mulched diameter, the better. For additional weed control, a porous landscape fabric which allows for air and water exchange may be put down before the chip mulch.

Mulching older, existing trees

DO NOT strip away sod. Simply lay down 4 inches of chips from the trunk out a foot or two past the present drip-line. Pull away 6 inches from the bark, level out and tamp lightly. Add 2-3 inches of new chips on top of the old mulch every 2-3 years, or just enough to maintain the 3-4 inch total depth.

Note that the mulch is out past the dripline of your new tree. This will cover the entire critical root area, and that's important. Also, the diameter of mulch needs to grow as your tree grows. Enlarge the mulch area by adding chips every 3-4 years to match the expanding diameter of your tree's crown and drip line.

Do not strip away sod for older existing trees, as you may damage the root system.

Selecting the right mulch

Any chipped or shredded wood will be good mulch. The best type is small, medium and large-sized particles all mixed together - chips under 1 inch and up to 3-4 inches in size. Chips from diseased elm or oak are safe to use. Once chipped, this wood cannot spread Dutch elm disease or oak wilt.

Tip: A local tree service with a chipper may have chipped up limbs and tree tops available. These chips make ideal mulch at little or no cost. In the natural forest, trees take care of themselves. The soil is moist and covered with a new mulch every fall. Maybe we can help our city trees feel a little more at home.

Benefits of mulching with wood chips

- Saves Labor - no weeding, less time watering
- Saves Water - far less watering needed, and more rain absorption
- Safer - no need for chemical weed killers or herbicides
- Stimulates growth - mulched trees grow faster than unmulched trees
- Makes trees more resistant to disease and insects
- Keeps soil and roots from overheating in hot summers
- Eliminates injury to trunk from mower collisions
- Reduces soil compaction over roots and adds loft
- Nourishes the soil by adding nutrients as it decomposes
- Eliminates the need for tilling and resultant root injury
- Reduces bruising of fallen fruit under fruit trees
- Increase earthworm population resulting in better aeration

Emergency Tree Care Service

Storms may cause limbs or entire trees to fail, often landing on homes, cars, other structures or other trees. The weight of storm damaged trees is tremendous and they are very dangerous to remove or trim. Our arborist can assist in performing the emergency tree care in a safe manner, while reducing further risk of damage to your property.

Our emergency service is a rapid response to tree hazards that occur outside the ordinary realm of tree care. Most emergency tree care situations are extremely dangerous and should not be attempted on your own. We provide 24-hour emergency services for hazardous and storm-damaged trees that have failed and resulted in damage to your home property. Even if your trees do not exhibit obvious damage after a weather event or no immediate emergency exists, it is important to have your property inspected by a certified Arborist Representative who may detect symptoms and conditions that could lead to problems later.

Our team of arborists can usually be on site within 2 hours. We will have the necessary equipment to safely remove the immediate danger. Once emergency services are complete, crews will then begin the process of clean up and repair.

When we use a Crane:

- A. *Some times we have to use a CRANE.*

We use a 35-ton, heavy-duty hydraulic crane. A crane is a vehicle / truck that is a large piece of machinery, and is assembled on site. It involves a system of pulleys and cables that can lift massive amounts of weight over a distance. It is able to lift heavy logs, trunks, branches, and many other things over structures that are too close to the tree to ensure a safe standard take-down method. A crane can hold and carry the limbs and trunk a distance, say from the backyard, passing over the pool, and over the roof of your house, past the front yard and to the curb.

The crane is useful in several different kinds of circumstances:

- When trees are in precarious, enclosed, oddly angled or otherwise difficult locations.
- Trees that are difficult to reach, to get to with equipment are crane-ready.
- Trees that are leaning over a house pool, car, or entangled in electric wires, severely dead or badly decayed are crane ready to be sure.

Basically, trees that just cannot be safely climbed and taken apart piece by piece but rather plucked from it's site, and lifted over, and away from the situation.

The crane eliminates a lot of the potential hazards that can present themselves in the takedown process. It protects the climber, the crew, the surrounding people, and property. It is always a site to see to be sure. The drama and the precision, the immensity and magic of a crane job is just magnificent. It is like a Vegas show: swinging from the trees working with the crane operator with hand signals, The crane operator astonishing courage and precision, and the chain saws going, and securing each multi-ton limb or trunk with ropes, preparing them to be lifted and taken by the crane. Wow! The moments of tense silence as the tree is literally lifted high up in the air and over a customer's house -- exhilarating! The neighbors all come out to see the show.... It becomes a great block party for you, and heck; it becomes pretty nice advertising for us.

Stump Grinding

Stump grinding is the next to last step in the process of tree removal. It is the use of a machine that has carbide teeth that are attached to a wheel that spins at 7500 RPM that grinds the wood of the stump into a pile of mulch...that we can take away, or leave and spread. Customer's choice.

We grind stumps at the time of removal, or can be called in to grind down preexisting stumps. We use a large stump grinder, and have access at a smaller one to get into smaller places if necessary.

Q: Why grind the stump?

Old stumps can be generally ugly. They decay, and can end up housing rodents and bees, and insects of all kinds, especially termites. If a stump is ground down with our stump grinder, it is easier to plant or build something else in its place. We can apply seed, so the "hole" in the lawn is replaced by grass.

Winter Tree Care Tips:

Here are some steps you can take to minimize winter injury:

- Plant trees in well drained soils, and spread mulches around the base areas of shrubs and small trees to minimize moisture loss.
- Water trees and shrubs before the freezing temperatures come.
- On younger trees, wrap nursery paper or burlap around the bases of trees.
- Don't plant trees prone to cracking near tall buildings that will shadow them.
- Prune dead or damaged branches once new growth has begun.

A Licensed Arborist and tree care professional can help and advise you on any of these preventative maintenance steps.

Tips on selecting a Christmas tree:

At the lot you will see three or four common varieties of trees. Some things to consider when choosing the right type will be the color, shape and feel of a tree. Some trees are dark green and others have gray or white hues. There are trees with tight branching patterns and then some with more spaces. One thing to remember is that if the tree looks very full while absent of ornaments, it may be difficult to decorate it. Most trees that end up on a lot have been groomed and sheared to look great during the selection process. Then you get it home and realize that there's very little space for ornaments. Choosing one with some empty spaces might be a better route. You could also bring a few of your favorite ornaments with you to test at the store. Also, be sure that the first foot of trunk is straight too, or you'll have one heck of a time getting it to stand up correctly at home.

Test Your Tree for Freshness

Once you have the look you want, you'll need to test the tree for freshness. Trees that are on a lot have been cut and shipped weeks earlier. Look for greener trees with no signs of wilting or browning. What can be tricky here is the fact that many trees have undergone a colorizing treatment before they were shipped. That is why a quick, pull test is next on my list. Grab a limb or two and pull them toward you. Then release the limb slowly, allowing it to pull through your hand. A fresh tree will keep most or all of its needles in this test, and the limb will not feel brittle or snap. Flexibility in the limbs is a must if the tree is to remain green for the next few weeks indoors. The final test is a quick drop test. Lift the tree a few inches off of the ground and then let it fall until the butt of the tree hits the ground. That quick shock will release any dry needles and give you a good feel for how fresh the tree truly is. Don't worry about a few needles letting loose throughout the interior.

Prepare Your Tree for Indoors

Once you pick the perfect tree and truck it home, make a fresh cut at the base, unless it was already done for you. One thing I like to do before I bring my tree inside is to take my blower out and give the tree a quick blast to remove any loose needles, debris wedged in the branches and, most importantly, remove any insects or egg masses that might have survived the journey.

Recycle Your Tree

After Christmas is over, you'll need to dispose of the family tree. There are many recycling programs all over the country that account for the recycling of 93% of all trees nationally. Most get ground into mulch to be given back to the community or utilized as mulch in flower beds and parks. Other communities have extensive erosion programs that take advantage of this biodegradable resource. Check local sources or Web sites like RecycleYourChristmasTree.com for more information.

Customer Satisfaction Is Our Number One Priority

Tree care specialists at Tri-County Tree Experts take great pride in earning client praise for professional expertise, reliability and quality of services. That's why our customers enjoy the peace of mind that comes from working with a team committed to excellence and backed by our unconditional guarantee. Certified arborists work with homeowners and property managers to provide the best customized tree care services.

We have earned a reputation for overall reliability in the tree care industry through word of mouth and praise from satisfied clients like you.

Our Commitment to Customer Satisfaction

Customer satisfaction is our number one priority. Arborists and plant health care specialists will create a tree care program for you that addresses your specific needs.

Unconditional Guarantee

We're confident in our ability to provide high quality care for your all your tree care. Should you be unhappy with our service and don't meet your expectations, please contact us immediately.