



Our Trees Need Care to Prepare for Colder Months

While your trees seem to be in a state of hibernation in the winter, exposure to the tough conditions can cause them major stress. Minimize stress by helping your trees through the cold months, a little at a time. If you take care of your trees in the winter, you'll be rewarded in the spring.

Rely on Mulch

Put composted organic mulch under your tree in the fall or early winter to help retain water and reduce temperature extremes in the soil. A thin layer of mulch will act like a blanket and give the tree's roots a little extra protection.

Give Your Trees a Drink

Winter droughts require watering as much as summer droughts. If temperatures permit, an occasional watering during the winter on young trees can be a lifesaver. But be sure to water when soil and trees are cool but not frozen.

Prevent Mechanical Injuries

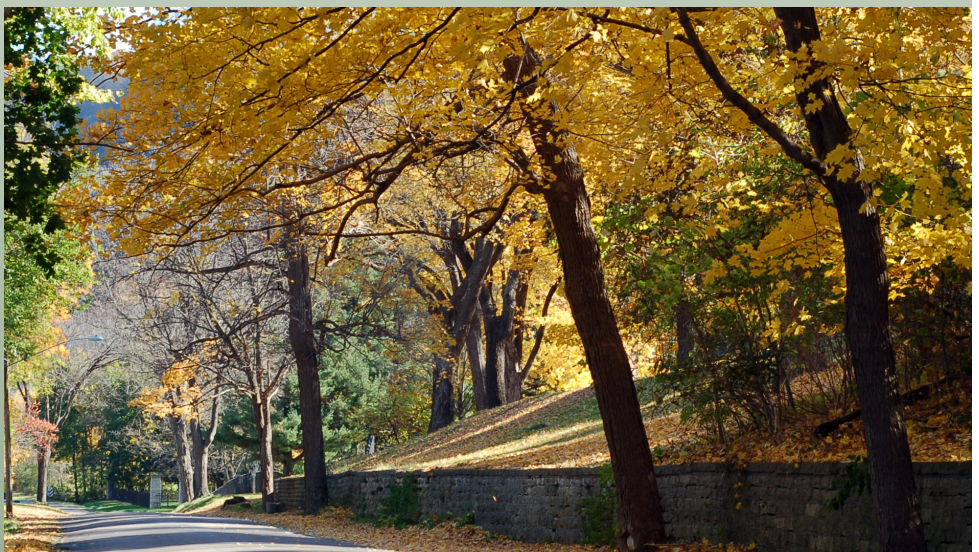
Branch breakage or splitting can be caused by ice and snow accumulation or chewing and rubbing by animals. You may prevent problems with young trees by wrapping their base in a hard, plastic guard or a metal hardware cloth. Wrapping trees with burlap or plastic cloth also can prevent temperature damage. However, it is important to remember to remove the wraps and guards in the spring to prevent damage when the tree begins to grow. Other damage can be caused when plowing or shoveling snow. Be mindful of trees nearby. Damage to limbs and trunks from plow blades or a sharp shovel can be detrimental to trees.

Prune Your Trees

Fall is a good time to prune your trees. Not only are trees dormant in the cooler months, but it is also easier to see a tree's structure when there are no leaves on the branches. Proper pruning is vital to the health of trees and plants, in part because it helps relieve stress on trees and keeps them growing. Just be aware that each tree is different and pruning at the wrong time or the wrong way can injure a tree making it more susceptible.

Plant Now

Since autumn is the time of year for colorful, falling leaves, many people do not realize that it is also a prime time to plant new trees. After cooler weather has set in, conditions are perfect for stimulating root growth in new trees. Once roots are established throughout the fall and dormancy of winter, spring showers and summer warmth encourage new top growth.





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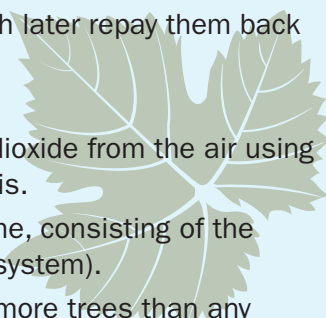
NVTE Company News

This fall our Certified Arborists Bryan, John and Chris

attended the MAC-ISA (Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture) annual conference in Frederick, MD. The purpose of this conference is to maintain their status as Certified Arborists by obtaining CEU's (Continuing Education Units). It's a great opportunity to stay up to date with tree care standards and safety updates. In November they will be attending the TCI Expo (Treecare Industry Expo) in Charlotte, NC to continue their development as Certified Arborists. TCI Expo is a great networking opportunity where the Treecare Industry will also display the latest pieces of equipment and technology related to tree care.

Interesting Tree Facts

- 1** The Manchineel tree, native to Florida, is considered the most poisonous tree in the world. It causes painful blisters if you stand under it during rain, blinds you if the smoke from its burned wood touches your eyes, can poison water with its leaves and will cause death if you eat its fruits.
- 2** A tree in Athens, Georgia legally owns itself. Its owner, Professor Jackson, out of love for the great oak, during 1800s deeded to the tree ownership of itself and the land within eight feet of it on all sides.
- 3** Scientists have found that older bigger trees share nutrients with smaller trees, which later repay them back when they have developed.
- 4** There are Eucalyptus trees in Hawaii with natural rainbow-colored barks.
- 5** Columbia University has developed an artificial tree that passively soaks up carbon dioxide from the air using "leaves" that are 1,000 times more efficient than true leaves that use photosynthesis.
- 6** An average tree is made up of 99% dead cells, only around 1% of it is alive at any time, consisting of the leaves, root tips, and phloem (a thin layer of under bark that acts as a food delivery system).
- 7** Forest growth in the US has exceeded harvest since the 1940's, and today we have more trees than any time in the past 100 years.



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