



3 Effective Spring Tree Care Tips

Mulch

Most trees are built to thrive in soils covered with one to three inches of loose debris made of sticks, leaf litter, and other organic matter. A more attractive substitute is wood mulch. The details of the mulch, whether it's dyed or not, how many times it's been ground, and so on, are of little importance. There are a few factors, though, that are important:

- Depth: the mulch must be no deeper than three to three and a half inches.
- Breadth: the mulch should be spread as widely as you can tolerate, up to two or three times the diameter of the crown at maximum
- Trunk space: the mulch should not touch the trunk. A one-inch gap will keep the trunk dry and healthy

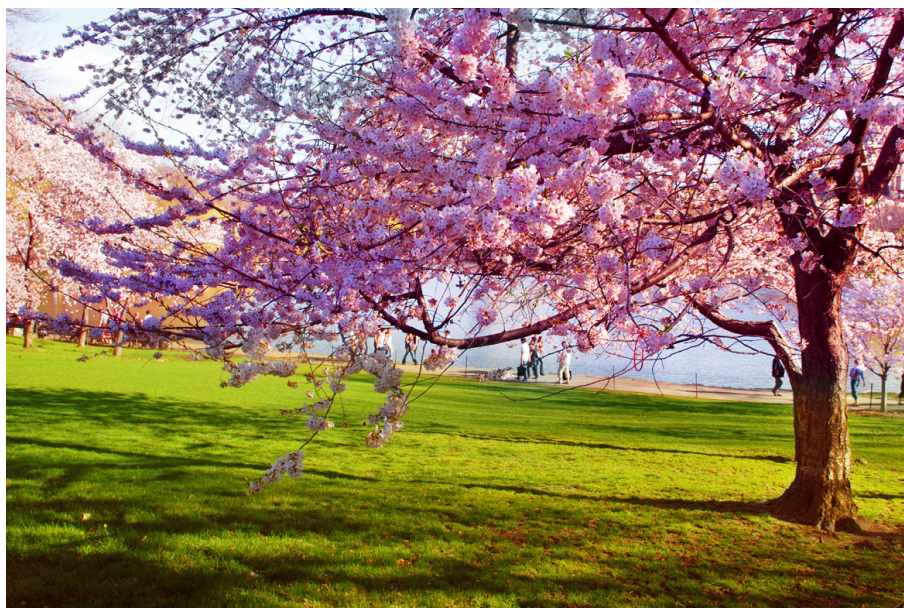
One of the most important jobs mulch does for trees in the landscape is keeping grass, and thereby mowers, away from trees. Though it may not seem like it, the snap of a string trimmer or a bump from a riding mower can do enough damage to kill sensitive and important tissues under the bark. Repeated damage from mowers can, and often does, kill trees.

Water

Just like us, trees can tolerate having too little water for a while, but not without negative effects. Ideally, most North American trees prefer at least an inch of water per week over their root zone when the leaves are out. In dry times, watering your most important trees can make a big difference and help the tree more easily deal with other stressors, like bad weather, insects, and disease. Drip irrigation or water bags are great ways to introduce large amounts of water slowly, ensuring deep infiltration. Ideally, the irrigation should get at least eight inches into the soil. The depth of the watering can be checked with a shovel or trowel.

Check for signs of trouble

- Late leafing out or early leaf drop
- Small leaves or a thinner canopy than other nearby trees of the same species
- Fine sawdust (frass) at the base of the trunk
- Large sections of bark falling off
- No trunk taper, trunk looks like a telephone pole where it meets the ground, or looks pinched
- Roots crossing over the trunk
- Large amounts of dead branches throughout the tree
- Cracks, creases, or places where the bark folds in between the branches
- No leaves at the tips of many branches, especially at the top
- Heaving soil near the base of the tree during wind
- Signs of insects such as webs, droppings, sticky liquid dripping from the tree, caterpillars, holes in the leaves, or unusual lumps on the leaves or stems





Spotlight on the Willow Tree

The Willow is a deciduous tree which belongs to the family Salicaceae. This plant originates from China, but it can be found throughout the northern hemisphere (Europe, Asia and North America). Willow inhabits temperate areas that provide enough moisture and direct sunlight. It is often found near lakes and ponds or planted in gardens and parks because of its ornamental morphology. Willow is a symbol of immortality and rebirth in China. In the other parts of the world willow often symbolizes grief. Willow trees are associated with superstition. According to legend, witches crafted brooms using the branches of the willow tree.



Fun Facts About Trees

- A giant sequoia is the largest tree in the world, standing 275 feet.
- Leaves appear green because chlorophyll absorbs red and blue light energy causing the green energy to bounce off the leaf's surface.
- In one day, one large tree can use up to 100 gallons of water out of the ground and discharge it into the air.
- Methuselah, an estimated 4,765-year-old ancient pine is one of the oldest living trees in the world.
- Tree shaded surfaces can be 20-45 degrees cooler than surfaces in direct sun, helping homeowners reduce summer cooling costs.

Spring is finally here! Contact us today to receive a free written estimate by one our Certified Arborists. Our services include: *Cabling, Bracing, Pruning, Spraying, Tree Removal, Stump Grinding, and Fertilizing*



**Northern Virginia
Tree Experts, Inc.**
4001 Westfax Drive D
Chantilly, VA 20151
(703) 263-3199

