

# How To Grow

Tree Care Tips from Certified Arborist Aaron Wurts

Vol: 1

Issue : 1

March 2009

## Life Cycle Tree Maintenance: How to invest in your properties & save on future expenses

**D**o you ever wonder how you can reduce the cost of maintaining the trees on your properties? Surprisingly, a little investment up front can save over the long run.

**H**ow is that possible? By properly maintaining trees over the course of their lives, you minimize the costs associated with trees that become too big for their location or that decline after years of neglect.

**A** certified arborist can help you by suggesting plants and trees that will suit a particular location remaining mindful of the mature size of different species. A certified ar-

borist understands how to properly prune trees at various life stages to optimize health and train them for their location. A qualified professional can provide a site assessment and give you various options for maintaining trees & shrubs.

**C**aring for your trees when they are young minimizes long-term issues and reduces the potential of removing a problem tree or dealing with an emergency. It also preserves trees so they can continue to add quality of life and value to your properties for many years.

## Why Hire an Arborist?

Do you understand the difference between a landscaper and an arborist? The green industry can be confusing. There is a lot of overlap between landscape companies and tree companies. Landscapers offer lawn & garden care. They can give basic tree advice.

**An arborist is an individual who is trained in the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining trees and shrubs.**

Arborists understand how trees integrate into the landscape and around buildings. Arborists are trained in pests & disease that affect your trees. Arborists can care for your trees regardless of their size, climbing to the tops of even very large trees to prune and maintain them.

The certifications you should look for are those of the **International Society of Arboriculture**. Founded in 1924, the ISA promotes the professional practice of arboriculture and fosters a greater public awareness of the benefits of trees.

Certified arborists are issued a certification number which can be verified at the ISA website ([www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com)). You should also watch for these logos when hiring:



## Fruit Tree Project

Do you have apples on your property that you can't seem to pick in the fall? Local non-profit **Lush Valley Food Action Society** has a solution for fruit and nutbearing trees that are not being harvested. Their Fruit Tree Project is an annual harvest-sharing partnership with producers, volunteer pickers and emergency food programs. Since 2002 over 6,000 pounds per year of otherwise wasted fruit, nuts and other perishables has been distributed through the community. The program includes harvesting, pruning, canning and preservation workshops for individuals.

Interested in local agriculture and food production, certified arborist Aaron Wurts was drawn to volunteer for the fruit tree projects. In addition to helping with pruning trees for Lush Valley, Aaron is helping to run workshops for homeowners on how to properly prune fruit trees. He also looks forward to helping with harvesting in the fall.

Know of trees not being harvested in your neighbourhood? Email or call Lush Valley with the contact information. Learn more: (250) 331-0152 or [www.lushcomoxvalley.org](http://www.lushcomoxvalley.org).



## Improper Pruning Devalues Your Properties

Proper pruning doesn't disrupt the form of the tree

### Q. How do I recognize good tree maintenance?

**A.** Some basic things to watch for include:

**Young Tree Training** - Have your trees properly pruned when they are young. This will result in less need for corrective pruning as they mature.



**Spurless Climbing** - Except for removals, trees should never be climbed with spurs. Spurs damage the tree by creating wounds, entrance points for pests and disease.

**No Topping** - Topping is a temporary and ineffective solution that actually makes a tree more hazardous in the long run.

**Form** - Pruning should not alter the natural form of the

tree. A professional should know how to obtain objectives without compromising the aesthetics of the tree.

**25% Rule** - Minimize excessive regrowth and stress to the tree by only removing up to 25% of the canopy.

Poor pruning can cause damage that lasts for the life of the tree. Take the time to find a tree company that respects your trees.

## Comox Valley Certified Arborist

**A**fter spending seven years in the thriving arboriculture industry in Vancouver, Aaron Wurts brought his family and his skills to the Comox Valley. He holds several ISA certifications including Certified Arborist, Certified Tree Worker & Climber Specialist and Certified Tree Risk As-

essor. Aaron has a passion for spurless climbing and approaches all pruning with a genuine concern for the health & longevity of the tree.

**To learn more:**  
(250) 702-3453  
[info@aaronwurts.com](mailto:info@aaronwurts.com)  
[www.aaronwurts.com](http://www.aaronwurts.com)

You wouldn't hire an electrician  
who isn't qualified.

Protect your investments—

Look for the ISA logos.